

March 2013 - June 2013



**News & Activities of the
Falls of the James Chapter, Sierra Club**

2013 U of R Big Yard Sale in Early May And We need YOU to Volunteer !!!...

Last year, more than ninety Sierra club members and volunteers helped run the University of Richmond Big Yard Sale, intercepting thousands of students' goods and cast-offs, keeping them out of the land fill and getting them into good homes.

The annual BYS collection period actually begins several weekends before graduation. FoJG members and volunteers cruise the campus in our BYS-marked trucks, because some seniors start cleaning out early - we find big items near the dumpsters and lots of stuff in the laundry rooms. It really is worth our while - plus, it's not hurried, so we have fun. I urge couples and those with trucks to sign up for some of the pre-graduation runs (I have a big truck)!

This year, Gradation Day is Sunday, May 12th. By 8 am on Monday May 13th, we'll begin our biggest collection day in earnest: we'll get you registered and get your group going ASAP - a third of the volunteers will be stationed at the dumpsters intercepting goods and explaining the BYS concept to the parents and students; a third at the Old Gym doing the initial receiving and sorting; and a third driving back and forth between the dumpsters and the Gym, and scavenging where they can - a long day but the only way to ensure a great haul.



Our New BYS Boutique !

The entire crew will be rejuvenated by the fresh volunteers scheduled to arrive late-afternoon, and hopefully, a fresh new crew in the evening (mainly to sort items in the Gym). On page 5, volunteer for the crew you want to work with (and say whether you want to work with a friend or two). And yes, you might consider taking this biggest 'dumpster-diving' day off from work, and encourage your friends to join us (be sure they register !!!)

The next day, Tuesday is STILL a big collection day. Some students are late in cleaning out their dorms and much more stuff is brought into the Laundry Rooms, so some of us are still out collecting donations. But more of the work has shifted into the gym -- cleaning out refrigerators, arranging furniture, and sorting clothes, books, electronics and more. And believe it or not, we still do some collecting and wrap-up sorting on Wednesday morning, then hope to lock everything up. Please call us (Tamara or John) to see if we'll be sorting Tuesday night - we might get to knock off early!

Please note we'll have munchies on Monday and Tuesday morning, and will serve lunch on both days and have snacks and drinks to keep everybody energized. BYO water bottle!

We always have two main sales: the big Preview Sale on Friday Night, May 17th, 6:15 to 8 PM for U of R staff and personnel only (IDs will be checked). It would be great if we had 30 to 35 volunteers, to help with check-out and carry stuff out to their cars. On Saturday, May 18th, we open the doors to the public at 8 am, for the wildest, most enthusiastic shoppers and bargain-hunters you have ever seen. It would be great if we had 35 or 40 volunteers to help us empty the Gym of as much stuff as possible. We are not sure whether we will need to help clean up the Gym after Saturday's sale, or on Sunday afternoon, or early Monday morning - this still needs to be worked out with U of R staff and Goodwill, so we hope some of you will keep some of these times open in case we have extra work to do. Thank you!

This year, our goal is for more volunteers (that's you and your friends); better-organized collecting at the dumpsters and laundry rooms (we're renting 2 medium-sized trucks); and better display of the goodies in the Milhiser Gym (Goodwill will be helping us again this year and will loan us the round clothing racks again)! Plus, we'll be making collection runs through the campus for several weekends prior to Graduation, to capture early discards!

Please use for the Sign-Up form inside, or go online. Please recruit friends to help us on our BIG collections days, Monday, and Tuesday, and for the two sale events: Friday evening and the Saturday, Public Sale. Help us make this our most successful BYS ever!

We'll Recycle What Your Recycler Won't !! Don't forget to bring your old batteries, CFC bulbs, #5 plastics, cell phones, and other hard-to-recycle goods.

FoJG Spring Calendar

March 2013

General Meeting & Program:

Wednesday, March 20 - 7 pm.

**The Blueprint to Save the Bay,
Starting in Our Backyard - Ann Jurczyk,
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
at the UofR Jepson Alumni Center,**

Is the Chesapeake Bay getting healthier? What efforts are underway to restore it at the Federal, state and local levels? What steps can individuals take, starting in our backyards, to improve the health of Virginia's waters?

Ann Jurczyk, Outreach and Advocacy Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will cover these topics in depth, including

how the "Blueprint" - the combination of EPA-established limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment plus Virginia's watershed implementation plan - should restore the Bay to once again be a thriving estuary. In addition, Ann will talk about CBF's efforts to restore the Upham Brook watershed, funded in part by a National Fish and Wildlife Grant.

Don't forget - "FoJG Plant Swap" in parking lot of Jepson 1 hour before program. Pot up the plants in your yard that you have too many of, and swap them for the heirloom plants others bring. Be smart and label them, including their preferred regime (sun, shade, wet soils, etc); planting instructions, and care requirements.

April 2013

General Meeting & Program

Wednesday, April 17 - 7 pm.

**Large Scale Commercial and
Industrial Solar Thermal Projects -
Stefan Bogdanovic**

The presentation will examine large, state of the art commercial and industrial solar thermal projects - such as the Pepsico/Gatorade industrial processing heat project and the world's largest district heating/cooling project at Mountainside Middle School-Desert Mountain High School in Arizona (50,000 square feet) and other international projects. Stefan will also focus on regional

developments options in Virginia and North Carolina, discuss US tax credits and innovative financing and tax credit models. Not highly technical, with lots of photos.

Plus, we'll be showcasing the winners of our Conservation Committee's 2012 High School Recycling Competition - winning school representatives will attend and their films will be shown first thing that evening! (see related story on Pg 8)

NO Program in May

**Instead, Lets celebrate
the end of the BYS and
Thank All our Volunteers
Wednesday, May 22nd, 6:30 pm.**

Pot Luck Dinner at the Carillon Shelter in William Byrd Park (a little southeast of Dogwood Dell) Celebrate the completion of the U of R Big Yard Sale and thank the wonderful volunteers who make it so successful. We'll have an easy evening of music, good food and fellowship. As we tried at last June's event, lets try to reduce the trash from the event : Bring your own plates, utensils, napkins and beverage containers! We'll also do a similar pot

luck: bring a dish to share, and label it with its name & please state whether it is omni, vegetarian or vegan and bring a serving spoon. Appetizers, mains, sides, desserts all welcome. Alcohol is not allowed in the park so bring something soft or be very discrete.

Come early if you can help us set up or clean-up afterwards. We also encourage you to bring (or wear) the most unusual thing you found at the BYS, so let's plan on having some early "summer fun".

**June 2013
General Meeting & Program**

Wednesday, June 12th, 7:00 pm.

**Preview the Richmond Hostel Project
under construction and enjoy a
special reception afterwards.**

Meet at 7 North 2nd St (the former Otis Elevator building), across the street from the Main Library.

The Richmond Hostel Project has been a multi-year volunteer-led effort to bring a Hostelling International Hostel to downtown Richmond, VA. The Richmond Hostel Project leaders have been working on the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of this historic building. Our Falls of the James Group made a \$5,000 donation, to sponsor a prominent room or space in the Hostel, expected to be finished this fall. Join us for a tour at 7 pm, and following that, we will walk to the Storefront for Community Design, Richmond's non-profit design and building resource, at 205 East Broad

Street, for refreshments and more!



Ralph White Continues to Enjoy Accolades

by John Zeugner

Ralph White was recognized and commended by the Richmond City Council in early January for his many significant contributions to enhancing our City's quality of life and transforming the James from a filthy, unhealthy river to one of the most renowned scenic and recreational rivers on the East Coast (my paraphrasing). The Mayor, Mr Samuels, Ms Kathy Graziano and other Council people and senior City staff all gave him a standing ovation. Bravo, Ralph!

And, to top that, at the Virginia General Assembly, The House of delegates passed a resolution in January HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 811 (Patrons-- Loupassi, Carr, Massie and McQuinn) recognizing Ralph for his dedication to public service, and lots more (you can read the resolutions on the GA's website).

Two weeks later, the Senator passed the virtually identical SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 402 (Patrons-- McEachin; Delegates: Carr, Hope, Krupicka, Loupassi, McQuinn, Plum, Scott, J.M. and Watts) acknowledging that his 32 years of vision and leadership, perseverance and accomplishments have made the James River, with its abundant resources and invaluable attractions, the gem in the crown of the Commonwealth's Capitol City.

On Thursday, February 21st, at a GA joint session, Senator McEachin (D-, 9th Dist - Henrico) presented a framed copy of the resolution to Ralph, with Cricket and a small group of invited friends in the Gallery. Following that, picture-taking in the Rotunda with Senator McEachin

and Delegate Carr with the Whites and their friends a very special day. The last line of the Resolution: "as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his unyielding public service and dedication to the James River Park System." Congratulations Big time, Ralph!



Volunteer: (*vol' ən tēər*) v.1. To perform or offer to perform a service of one's own free will.
2. To do charitable or helpful work without pay.

A Message from Wendy Floyd, new Volunteer Coordinator

Calling All Volunteers! The Falls of the James Sierra Club always has many opportunities to get involved, educate the public and meet fellow citizens that are concerned about the

environment. Here are three events coming up in the early Spring: Easter Parade, Earth Day and the BIG Yard Sale. There are always sign-up sheets at our monthly meetings, on our

website, <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/foj/>, or for more information contact Wendy Floyd, 747-8917; email, abidan4@gmail.com.

Easter Parade

When: March 31, 1pm – 3pm & 3pm - 5pm. Plus we need folks to help set up and take down.

Where: Monument Ave. and Meadow

A Richmond tradition that takes place on historic Monument Avenue that attracts residents from all over the Metro area. We will partner with the VA Chapter of the Sierra Club and our own Glen Besa will join us for the afternoon. Volunteers Needed to help with petitions, talk up the issues with the public, recruit for memberships, etc, PLUS the Group's BigFoot display will be making a special appearance! Wear something fun and lets have a great time!

Earth Day

When: April 23 1 pm- 3pm & 3pm - 5pm or whenever you can make it.

Where: 17th Street, Farmers Market in Shockoe Bottom. Plus we need folks to help set up and take down. PLEASE don't get confused and go to Old Manchester - that's the FOR PROFIT event !

We've changed location & returned to a grass-roots and family-friendly celebration ! We'll be sharing a booth with the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Come meet other groups and organizations that share a concern for the environment, learn about the issues that affect our Richmond metropolitan area, and join with your neighbors who want to make a difference. There will be

a wide range of fun activities for all ages - energy audits, bike rides, samples from local breweries, and food vendors, and the return of the Group's BigFoot display. You'll learn more at the April General Meeting on the 17th, so get green, get fired up, and bring some friends!

BIG Yard Sale

When: From the end of April til the May 18th or 19th

Where: University of Richmond, Milhauser Gym

Time: Come for the day, the week, or choose a time that fits your schedule. Divert good stuff from the landfill and put it back in the reuse stream affordably! Please look inside for the 2 pages with all the BYS information and sign up for as much as you can!!

Third Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival Even Bigger Success !

by John Zeugner

The 2012 RVA Environmental Film Festival was held mainly on two days this year; Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 9th and 10th, at the Historic Byrd Theatre in Carytown. This year, the Falls of the James Group partnered with the Capital Region Land Conservancy, the James River Green Building Council, Earth Craft Homes, and the James River Association to bring to the screen titles such as Chasing Ice. Atomic States of America, Mother Nature's Child & Bending Sticks (with the co-director); Green Fire (the life of Aldo Leopold), the Clean Bin Project, Vegucated and Ingredients, Queen of the Sun, The Big Fix, and The Age of Stupid. In fact, so many good movies were deemed necessary, one was shown early on Friday evening, and we bought 3 extra hours on Sunday night, to squeeze them all in.

To make the event accessible to all, and let viewers come and go as they pleased, all the films were free and open to the public. We believe 750-900 attended, three times as many as



the year before (Chasing Ice was the biggest draw).

Special thanks to our major sponsors, the Falls of the James Group, Bon Secours Richmond Health System, the Carytown Merchant's Association, Whole Foods Market, and REI; and Earth Craft Homes, the James River Association, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Nacho Mama's, Watershed Architects,

Slow Food RVA, Richmond.com and RVANews.

Thanks also to the planners and organizers: Tamara Smith, John Z, Chelsea O'Brian, Eric Vrable, Tara Quinn, Scott Burger, Ryan Corrigan, Christina Daniel; Bill Nelson, Dawn Williamson, Mark Hill; and Stacy Lenore Reed! Thanks too for the extra volunteers and UR Green students, and special thanks to Todd Schall-Vess, the Byrd Theater manager and Guardian Angel! Congratulations, and great job, all!



Falls of the James Group Awards Several Environmental Grants

by John Zeugner

After years of fundraising, with the goal of building up Group funds to provide a safety cushion for our annual expenses and for initiating an environmental education-based Grants and Awards program, your Executive Committee determined that we would begin to disburse some of our funds to help with environmentalists education, advocacy, outreach to younger environmentalists and students and recycling programs.

In 2012, we offered the following grants: The Potomac Area Council on Hostelling, \$5,000; the Partnership for Smarter Growth \$2,500; \$2,000 for the Environmental Film Festival start-up; Fair Share Urban Farms, \$1,000; and \$300 for the joint FoJG-JRAC watershed clean-up this past June. \$1,500 was

also allocated to the 2012 High-School recycling competition - George Mason Elementary School (in the City's East End) is the first-place winner: a \$1,000 prize; and North Star Academy (which provides individualized instruction in a structured, nurturing environment to students with a broad range of disabilities and intellectual abilities who have had difficulty succeeding in traditional settings) is the second-place winner: a \$500 prize! Both schools' teams will show their videos at the April general Meeting. Congratulations to both these schools!

Our biggest annual fundraising event is the U of R Big Yard Sale (and we always split the profits with the URGreen Student Coalition) and we usually hold a smaller

fundraising event at the Holidays with our gala celebration, a dinner, auctions and a raffle. We also raised funds for the Environmental Film Festival by soliciting sponsorships, which allowed us to make the entire event free and open to the public. Everybody liked that !

We also have a small account with the Sierra Club's Foundation, a 501-c-3 non-profit, devoted entirely to educational activities. Group members can make donations to this account and receive a full tax-deduction for the value of their gifts. We will receive AND recognize gifts in honor of people, special occasions, or planned giving and/or large bequests. Please talk to Adele, Tamara or John if you would like more information about this win-win gift-giving.



2013 UofR 16th ANNUAL "Big Yard Sale"

Help divert good stuff from the Landfill

FOJG members and family members register by April 22 (John Muir's Birthday!).



ONLINE Registration: <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/2013BigYardSale>

Please indicate the time that you are offering in the "My Time" section of this form. Please volunteer for at least four hours.
Complete and mail this form to Gill Sigmon, 3510 Floyd Ave, Richmond, VA 23221; (804) 896-1107.

We need at least 100 volunteers on Monday, and at least 50 on Tuesday!

Name		Address	
City	State	Zip	Phone
Sierra Club Member (Y/N)		Email	

Planning & Organizing (February to April)

Committee work	Yes/No	Plan Publicity, Dumpster Dive, Big Yard Sale, Disposition of unsold items.
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Scavenger Team (Three weekends before the Dumpster Dive)

Day	Day	My Time	Task Description
April 27-28 (Sat or Sun)	Pick one	Pick one	Pickup early cast-offs
May 4-5 (Sat or Sun)	Pick one	Pick one	Pickup cast-offs of early leaving students. Dates and times will be arranged later
May 11-12 (Sat or Sun)	Pick one	Pick one	

I will volunteer "My Time" for the following tasks (4 hrs. minimum)

Dumpster Dive Monday, May 13th & Tuesday, maybe half Wednesday

Day	Task	Circle one or more			Task Description
Monday	Anywhere	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Anywhere: Wherever needed
	Gym Setup	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Setup tables and signage in gym
	Dumpsters	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Teams of two divert stuff from a dumpster
	Transportation	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Load stuff into trucks and deliver to the gym parking lot
	Brute Squad	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Unload trucks and deliver items into the gym
	Sorting	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Receive and organize the good stuff inside Millhiser gym
	Hospitality	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Register volunteers, deliver lunch and water to all volunteers
Tuesday & Wednesday	Dumpsters	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Teams of two divert stuff from a dumpster
	Brute Squad	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Unload trucks and deliver items into the gym
	Sorting	8am-lunch	lunch-5pm	6pm-9pm	Continue organizing gym for the yard sale

Big Yard Sales, Friday, May 17th & Saturday, May 18th

Day	Task	Time	My Time	Task Description
Friday	Cashier **			Assistants: Help customers find, purchase and remove good stuff from the gym.
	Ticket Takers			Cashier: Bills customer based on price sheet, receives cash or check payment, issues exit ticket to customer. Cashiers will attend a training session in advance of the sale.
	Assistants			
Saturday	Cashier **			
	Ticket Takers			
	Assistants			

****Note: Cashier must have previous experience**

ONLINE Registration: <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/2013BigYardSale>

As in other Sierra Club outings volunteers will be asked to sign a waiver upon arriving at the Millhiser Gymnasium for their volunteered assignment.

More Information on the Big Yard Sale

NOTE: In Late April and Early May, some students discard good stuff that can be recovered on the weekends preceding the main Collection week -- so we have formed Scavenger Teams to cruise on the 3 weekends before. See times and dates below....

In fact, most Seniors finish their exams around May 4th, and then head to the Beach for a week of R & R. They return to the campus a few days before Graduation, which is on Sunday, May 12th.

If you would like to volunteer for these

pre-graduation week- or weekend Scavenger runs, contact John Zeugner at H & W (804) 288-5005; cell 338-1543, or jjzeugner@comcast.net
UR recommends 1 run per day, time depends on your availability...

Please check all possible days/shifts/alternate hours.

Weekend of April 27th -28th We need 2 -4 volunteers, 1-2 trucks.

____ Yes, I can come ____yes, I have a truck. ____No truck but I'll help

Weekend of & May 4th -5th We need 2 -4 volunteers, 1-2 trucks.

____ Yes, I can come ____yes, I have a truck. ____No truck but I'll help

Weekend of May 11th & 12th (Graduation weekend) We need the usual as above

____ Yes, I can come ____yes, I have a truck. ____No truck but I'll help

Don't forget to fill in all contact info on opposite side of paper. Thanks ! JJZ

Registration:<http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/2013BigYardSale>

As in other Sierra Club outings volunteers will be asked to sign a waiver upon arriving at the Millhiser Gymnasium for their volunteered assignment.

FOJG Members and others may also DONATE goods for the Sale by bringing them to the Millhiser Gym on Tuesday or Wednesday (May 14th-15th). This can include bikes, boats, canoes & kayaks, game-tables, sports & exercise

equipment, TVs & old computers (must be in working order) clothes, furniture, appliances! We may be able to make home pick-ups a week or two in advance by contacting John Zeugner. The value of the donation you make (thru the Sierra Club Foundation - Falls of the James Group Acct GG3552) is fully tax- deductible (unless the Tax code changes suddenly!) We will accept cash too !

One last item: We start planning for the BYS in early March. We'd love to have you join us. The tentative BYS Planning Committee is:

Jane Hotchkiss
Bob & Carol Pontius
Gill Sigmon
Tamara Smith
John Zeugner

We need at least three more !!!



View from the Chair A Four-Year Window of Opportunity?

by Adele Maclean

On February 12, for the first time, a United States president in his annual State of the Union address to Congress cited global climate change as a major threat to the nation and promised to address it by executive order if Congress failed to act on its own. Specifically, President Obama pledged to reduce pollution, to help communities adapt to the repercussions of climate change, and to speed the transition to a clean energy future.

Throughout Obama's first term, climate change legislation languished on the back burner, while he was consumed with financial crises, sweeping health care reform, and political brinkmanship. But his promise in his recent State of the Union speech offers hope that Obama will make the environment a priority in his second term. It's an opportunity we cannot afford to squander.

So how do we, as committed environmentalists and members of the Sierra Club Falls of the James Group (FOJG), take advantage of this rare opportunity to advance important environmental goals? By getting involved. The following is a list of specific action steps we can take - and now is the time for each of us to take action in as many ways as we can manage:

GETTING INFORMED, INFORMING OTHERS

Paying attention and becoming educated are obvious first steps, but for many they are not so easy. The issues are complex; other causes compete for our time and resources; distractions abound; vested interests intentionally cloud the issues; and mainstream media often leave us either uninformed or misinformed. That means individually and as a group we must proactively find and share important information.

The monthly programs at our FOJG general meetings at the University of Richmond Jepson Alumni Center are

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exceptional, connecting us in numerous important ways, not the least of which is with up-to-the-minute information about Sierra Club organizing campaigns, pending legislation, political candidate endorsements, rallies, volunteer opportunities, and the like. We encourage you, first of all, to be there on the third Wednesday each month, but also to participate actively, contribute your ideas for new programs, and help us to tailor them to your needs and interests.

The FOJG blog, website www.virginia.sierraclub.org/foj, FaceBook entries, and quarterly The Fall Line newsletter provide valuable print information about related topics of regional interest, just as the Virginia Sierra Club State Chapter website www.vasierraclub.org, blog, Twitter feeds, YouTube videos and Old Dominion Sierran newsletter keep us informed about key issues at the state level. (Of course, similar publications of various allied local, state, and national organizations too numerous to mention - as well as myriad voices on the web - can also be helpful.) We need your ideas, suggestions, and contributions for all these media, too.

By the same token, we need to continue to educate others at every opportunity, as we did so effectively February 9 and 10 with the free RVA Environmental Film Festival and will continue to do at Sierra Club information tables at upcoming public events like the Easter Parade, Earth Day, and our annual Big Yard Sale. You can sign up to help disseminate information and do other important jobs at these events; you can also volunteer for any of several roles in next year's film festival - and we hope you will!

TAKING A PUBLIC STAND

In one sense, making a public statement is simply another form of sharing information, but it carries more weight. Letters to the editor, for example, are among the most widely



read part of a newspaper and can draw special attention to an issue, informing thousands at once. A drumbeat of letters over time has the power to change attitudes. Since letter writing is fairly easy to do, it can be an especially helpful community organizing tool and a good way to start becoming active.

Petitions, such as the one FOJG is currently circulating on change.org about the City of Richmond's water rates, offer a way to demonstrate the breadth of public opinion about a specific issue. Press releases and press conferences are additional tools for drawing media attention to a timely issue or event. Testifying before public bodies such as a county board of supervisors, city council, or a state general assembly committee provides another important way to give voice to the issues. Taking to the streets in a march or rally makes perhaps the strongest public statement of all. For example, when a busload of Richmonders, including members of FOJG, participated in the Forward on Climate demonstration in Washington on February 17 along with thousands of activists from around the country, their very presence spoke volumes, underscoring the need for climate action now.

PRESSING FOR LEGISLATIVE OR POLITICAL ACTION

What sets the Sierra Club apart from

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most other nonprofits is our willingness step into the political arena and fight for the environment when necessary. This work involves vetting political candidates, endorsing those aligned with Sierra Club values, working in their campaigns, raising money, registering voters, making calls, canvassing, getting out the vote, and even running for office. Once an official is elected, lobbying can be a powerful tool, whether by letter, email, phone call, or in person. It requires being able to absorb information, explain the issues, listen, persuade, and build relationships. When all else fails, lawsuits may be the only way to ensure accountability. The better we get at this important work, the more influence we can have. Currently, FOJG is seeking a chair for our Legislative and Political Committee which needs more energy. Might that be a leadership role for you? Or if you are not quite ready to lead a committee, could you volunteer to do the legwork to support someone else who does take the job on?

TAKING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE GROUP

In fact, FOJG has several other leadership opportunities for capable people who want to become more involved. Our hats are off to our three new Ex Com members - Jane Hotchkiss, Andrew Payne, and Wendy Floyd - who have done just that by agreeing to assume major new leadership duties for the group (publicity, membership, and volunteer coordination respectively). Other leadership roles yet to be filled include Social Committee chair and FOJG representative to the State Chapter board. In addition, some of our hard-working committee chairs and Ex Com members would probably appreciate your help (and might toy with the idea of grooming you to succeed them later).

OTHER WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Direct service to the environment—like participating with the group in a Canon Creek Greenway or James River or Bryan Park clean-up day or planting trees to restore a stream bank or

daffodils to reclaim a blighted urban spot—is not only immediately productive but also extremely gratifying. Contributing money to the group if you are short of time and helping raise funds by buying FOJG products and working shoulder to shoulder with us at fundraising events like the University of Richmond Big Yard Sale are more indirect ways to help, but they are critically important, too. Similarly, helping distribute the money we raise through our grant-making program offers still another approach. Finally, working in coalition with FOJG allies in the community can increase our impact by an order of magnitude.

Now, if ever, it's time to think globally and act locally (and regionally). Even the president acknowledges that the need is great. Fortunately, there are many good ways to get involved to meet the need. Each of us can make a difference.

Conservation Committee Recycling Education Contest Winners Announced!

Our Group's Conservation Committee, chaired by Adele Maclean crafted a recycling education competition for regional High-Schools in 2012. \$1,500 was allocated for this contest, and they steered the interested schools towards making a videos.

The contest judges unanimously

decided that George Mason Elementary School is the first-place winner of the contest (\$1,000), and North Star Academy is the second place winner (\$500). Both schools have



now been notified and both school's teams will show their videos at the April general Meeting. Congratulations to both these schools, and BIG thanks to the committee: Adele Maclean; Erik Von Ruffer; Roger Pittard; Wendy Floyd, Susan Wagner; Scott Burger Vaughan Prichett and Steve Heinitz!

Tamara Smith, Green Giant and Ex Comm Delegate, Aims to Lighten her Load...

Tamara Smith, who had served on the Ex Comm for more than a decade, officially stepped down as a group delegate. She has been either Chair or Co-Chair for all our Holiday Galas (and auctions); our dozen Big Yard Sales (she's an U of R

Alumnus); our three Environmental Film Festivals, and our Group's Fundraising chair. She has also organized dozens of canoe trips and excursions; is a master at getting members together, and is an essential ingredient at any social get-together - Plus, she was our

Green Giant recipient in 2011! She assures us that she will still be an active organizer and fundraiser, but would like to help others learn the position (note: it includes training in San Francisco). Congratulations, Tamara, and our great gratitude, on many jobs well done!

2013 FoJG Executive Committee Election Results

by John Zeugner

Congratulations to **Wendy Floyd**, the newest group delegate elected to our Ex Comm and the 4 Ex Comm members who were reelected: **Scott Burger**, **MaryBeth Mains**, **Catherine Welsh**, and **John Zeugner**. **Adele MacLean** and **Eric Vrabel** are both serving their second terms. Unfortunately, **Tamara Smith**, chose not to run for reelection and stepped down as a group delegate - please see related story on page 8.

As you know, we have been advertising the fact that for more than a year we have several vacancies in our Ex Comm, which at full strength should be nine members. Towards the end of the year (and after the ballots were printed), two other Group members, **Jane Hotchkiss** and **Andrew Payne** asked if they could help with the group's leadership. Our Bylaws allow the Ex Comm the power to fill a vacancy in any elected or appointed office.

At our January meeting, the Ex Comm voted unanimously to allow them to fill both vacant positions. So finally, we have a full house of Ex Comm delegates. Please note their email addresses:

Jane at jhotchkiss2@netzero.net;

Andrew at awpayne1029@me.com

Wendy at abidan4@gmail.com

We held elections for Officers and Committee Chairs at our January meeting.

• **Group Chair Adele MacLean**
amaclean94@gmail.com

• **Vice Chair Eric Vrabel**
evrabel@yahoo.com

• **Treasurer Mary Beth Mains**
marybeth125@verizon.net

• **Secretary Catherine Welsh**
catherine.welsh@verizon.net

And congratulations to **Eric Vrabel** for his election to Vice-Chair!



2013 Ex Comm members: Top row, l to r: Jane Hotchkiss, Andrew Payne, Scott Burger, Wendy Floyd, and Catherine Welsh Seated row, l to r: Mary Beth Mains, Adele MacLean, and John Zeugner. Not included in picture: Eric Vrabel

Some of our Committee Chairs changed, some remain the same. They are easier to show by Ex Comm Member-and it shows how we are stretched so thin. Interested in helping with any of these committees, or new ones such as social (ie networking, meeting new people, fun!), sustainability, bike-ped, Inner City Outings; University liaisons, and more, please contact any of us ASAP:

- **Adele MacLean** - Conservation Chair, Partnership for Smarter Growth
- **Catherine Welsh** - Leadership Training Team Chair
- **Tamara Smith**** - Fundraising (willing to train motivated group members!)
- **Andrew Payne** - Membership Chair
- **Andrew and Shavon Peacock** - Outings
- **Scott Burger** - Political Chair, GRTC Committee Rep
- **John Zeugner** - Programs, Newsletter, Transportation & Bay Water Issues
- **Jane Hotchkiss** - Publicity/Communication
- **Wendy Floyd** - Volunteer Coordinator
- **Eric Vrabel** - Website and Social Media

Vacancies:

Social Chair and Chapter Delegate. Our Group should send a representative to the State Executive Committee meetings. These are always on every odd month, on each second Saturday. Car-pooling may be available with some of our State SC staff members. Contact **Adele MacLean** if you might be interested.

Sierra Club
Falls of the James Group
 P.O. Box 25201
 Richmond, VA 23250
www.virginia.sierraclub.org/foj

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The Falls of the James Group usually takes a "Summer Vacation", with General Meetings resuming in September 2013. Remember, we've moved to the Jepson Alumni Center on the Third Wednesday each month at 7 pm. Free & the Public is Always Invited to Attend ! We may have some summer activities planned – Kayak trips, Bike rides, hikes or parties or overnights to see meteor showers. Please visit our website frequently – <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/FOJ>

Falls of the James Group Delegates & Current Executive Committee Officers:

Chair	Adele MacLean	amaclean94@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Eric Vrabel	evrabel@yahoo.com
Secretary #1	Catherine Welsh	welshcm@msn.com
Treasurer	Mary Beth Mains	marybeth125@verison.net

Group Delegates Elected by Membership (Ex Comm)

Scott Burger	EXPIRES Dec 14
Wendy Floyd	EXPIRES Dec 14
Jane Hotchkiss	EXPIRES Dec 13
Adele MacLean	EXPIRES Dec 13
Mary Beth Mains	EXPIRES Dec 14
Andrew Payne	EXPIRES Dec 13
Eric Vrabel	EXPIRES Dec 13
Catherine Welsh	EXPIRES Dec 14
John Zeugner	EXPIRES Dec 14

The Executive Committee meets usually the 1st Wed, Sept-May 7:00 pm
 SC VA Chapt Off 422 E Franklin St, Suite 302

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INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32



Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Visit our BLOG on website <http://www.scfoj.tumblr.com/>

For add/drop address changes contact: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968 or Call (415) 977-5653

Letters and your comments are welcome. Pls use the contact info herein.

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