

THE FALL LINE

December 2013 - March 2014



Annual Holiday Gala and Fundraiser, with guest speaker Ben Greenberg, Nature Photographer and author of *Natural Virginia* (publishing date March 2014). Wednesday, December 11th, 6:30 pm, at the Science Museum of Virginia!

The Gala Planning Committee hopes you have already made your reservations for our annual Holiday Gala Celebration at the newly refurbished Science Museum RF&P room!

We will repeat our popular holiday formula: a grand evening of holiday music, slides of our year's accomplishments, refreshments, a dinner buffet catered by A Sharper Palate, socializing and Sierra Club gift shopping for the holidays. This will be your only opportunity to buy Sierra Club wall calendars and our FOJG coffee mugs. There will be a fundraising raffle for exciting prizes and services. We will also present the 8th annual FOJG Green Giant Award, recognizing a Richmond-area individual who has exhibited outstanding environmental stewardship.

Our guest speaker will be Ben Greenberg, nature photographer and author of *Natural Virginia. Panoramic Landscape Photographs from the Tidewater, the Piedmont and Western Virginia*, which will be published in March of 2014. We will see many of these astonishing panoramas with his talk!

NOTE: Volunteers are needed to help the night of the event. Carol Pontius and Alice Preston are in charge of decorations, and they will need your help to transform the room (please arrive by 4:30 pm). Greeters, bartenders, sales people, registration folks, and cleanup volunteers are also needed. Wendy Floyd will be coordinating volunteers - please contact her at 747-8917 or abidan4@gmail.com or just show up! If we all pitch in, it makes for light work and more fun!

Members: if your last name begins with A-L, please bring an appetizer. If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring a dessert.

We have limited seating - please make your reservations today. Members \$30.00. Non-members \$35.00. To pay by check, send check made payable to "Sierra Club" to Anne Repp, 2221 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23220. Anne's email is anne.repp@verizon.net. To pay by credit card, order tickets via Eventbrite: <http://holidaygala2013.eventbrite.com>.

Festive holiday attire is encouraged, so lets "deck the halls..."

Deadline Noon Tuesday, December 3rd.

Fourth Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival Coming in February!

On Saturday and Sunday, February 8-9, 2014, the Falls of the James Group - Sierra Club, the Capital Region Land Conservancy, EarthCraft Virginia, the James River Green Building Council and the Enrichmond Foundation will join together to present the fourth annual RVA Environmental Film Festival at the historic Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia.

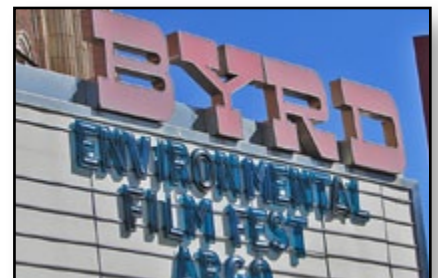
The weekend-long event will showcase films designed to raise awareness of environmental issues relative to all residents of our planet. These fascinating and wonderful films have already been secured for the Festival:

The Lorax (1972); Wings of Life (2013); The Human Experiment (2013); Lost Rivers (2012); Shored Up (2013).

Thanks to generous sponsors such as Bon Secours, Whole Foods Market, REI, EarthCraft Virginia, REI, James River Association, Carytown Merchant's Association, Watershed Architects, and the Sierra Club-Falls of the James Group, this event is free and open to the public.

The 2014 RVA EFF will also hold its first environmental short film contest, and on Friday, February 7th, in the evening, a special VIP reception will be held at a local Art Gallery, with celebrity stars, movie moguls, and Richmond's most awesome environmental activists (thats US!)

Additional information about the films, guests and speakers, and specific show time schedules will be forthcoming. For up-to-date postings of additional films and information on the Festival, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, visit www.ravenvironmentalfilmfestival.com.



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 Fall General Meeting Programs

January 2014 Program

Wednesday, Jan. 15 - 7 pm.
Catch the BUZZ! Kristi Orcutt –
Rockwood Park
Backyard Beekeeping Association

Kristi Orcutt has enjoyed the past 20 years working as a naturalist, horticulturalist and outdoor educator at Pocahontas State Park, Rockwood Nature Center, and currently at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Kristi has kept honeybees for 8 years, co-founded the Rockwood Park Backyard Beekeeping Association, and mentored

dozens of new beekeepers in the Richmond area. Ms. Orcutt will share with us the miracle of pollinators (native and non-native honeybees) and their role in the local and global food security and how we are all beekeepers via our landscaping practices and our purchasing decisions.

February 2014 Program

Wednesday, Feb. 19 - 7 pm.
Reclaiming Our Food - new ways to
provide local food for communities.
Tanya Denckla Cobb

Reclaiming Our Food is the new book by **Tanya Denckla Cobb**, the associate director of UVA's Institute for Environmental Negotiation of their Urban & Environmental Planning Department. She writes about the grassroots food movement changing what we eat and tells the stories of more than 50 groups across North America who are finding

new ways to provide local food for their communities. You won't want to miss this lecture!

Also, State Sierra Club Director Glen Besa will provide our annual briefing on the General Assembly with his special focus on the pro-environment bills we support and anti-environment bills we oppose.

March 2014 Program

Wednesday, March 19 - 7 pm.
Establishing Habitat for
Pollinating Insects with Native
Wildflowers & Shrubs
Bob Glennon - Private Land Biologist,
Virginia Tech

Bob Glennon, the private lands biologist for Virginia Tech responsible for serving the clients of the USDA, NRCS, and the Va. Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in southeastern Virginia has 30 years of service working in 20 states for the NRCS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He has years of experience working with native plants for conservation

efforts. Mr. Glennon will explain why plant selection is so important in providing optimal habitat for our native pollinators - the right plants for the job. He will share with us the keys to successfully establishing a pollinator garden.

Also, we'll have a brief presentation on efforts to bring Co-Housing to Richmond.

April 2014 Program

Wednesday, April 16 - 7 pm.
Global Climate Change: Turning
Knowledge into Power
Dr. David Kitchen

Dr. Kitchen, associate dean for strategic planning and professor in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at the University of Richmond teaches courses in geology and climate and in 2013 published a textbook on climate change, *Global Climate Change: Turning Knowledge into Action*. The book summary reads as follows: the science of climate change is a complex subject that balances the physical record and scientific fact with politics, policy, and ethics - and

is of particular importance to the geosciences.

Taking a cross-disciplinary approach, Dr. Kitchen examines not only the physical science, but the social, economic, political, energy, and environmental issues surrounding climate change. His goal: to turn knowledge into action, equipping citizens with the knowledge and critical skills to make informed decisions, separate facts from fiction, and participate in the public debate.

No General Meeting in May
Picnic to celebrate the end of another
Big Yard Sale and a "Thank You,
Volunteers" Night
Wednesday, May 21 - 7 pm.

Celebrate the completion of the UR 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. Location, time and details will

be in the next newsletter. We may encourage you to bring or wear the most unusual treasure you discovered at the BYS, so let's plan on having some early "summer fun".

June 2014 Program and Date To Be Announced

Other Important Dates and Volunteer Opportunities:

by Wendy Floyd

Easter Parade on Monument Ave.

April 20, 2014, 1pm – 5pm

Each year more than 25,000 people converge on Monument Ave to celebrate the arrival of spring on Easter Sunday. The FOJG Sierra Club will again have a booth to spread the word about the important environmental issues that need our community's attention. Music, arts, crafts, children's activities, food, balloon artistry, a petting zoo are all part of the celebration.

More information can be found at: Easter on Parade - Official Website www.venturichmond.com/events/

21st Earth Day Festival

April 26, 2014

17th Street Farmer's Market, 11- 5pm

The FOJG Sierra Club will be participating in this celebration in Shockoe Bottom and we'll share tables in a double-booth with the State Chapter! We will need volunteers, but it will be more fun than work (great music is already lined-up!)

If you want to learn about green building, buying from local businesses, urban gardening, repurposing materials, or eco-friendly modes of transportation this is the place to get the information. There will be eco-friendly art projects, games and array of hands-on activities

for children provided by local non-profits right here in our community. Come join the fun, sample some food, and learn about what is happening in the green community. There is more information on their Facebook page or on the web, www.earthdayrichmond.org.

Big Yard Sale at UR Monday, May 12th to Saturday, May 17th, 2014

"Big Yard Sale" at UR officially begins. Please see article on top on Page 6 for full information.

Ex Com Unanimously Opposes Mayor's Proposal for Baseball Stadium in Shockoe Bottom

by John Zeugner

As we have expected, a few weeks ago the Mayor unveiled his proposal for a Baseball Stadium in the Bottom, with a large, mixed-use and residential mega-development wrapped around it. This proposal is receiving a very, very hard sell - from him, his Administration and those in City Hall who feel compelled to follow; the developers, the financiers, the construction companies, the Squirrels, sports fans, and perhaps a majority of City Council. They would like you to believe that this is virtually a done deal, hardly worth fighting.

But there are other factors which may stop such a project. Historic preservationists and members of the African-Americans community, environmentalists and many who want to keep baseball on the Boulevard have challenged the project on many grounds: its impact on the slave trade history and burial grounds; the unpopularity of the proposal with Richmond residents (67% disliked it - so the Mayor sidestepped a public referendum); the environmental impacts, and the financing of the project, which is by far riskier and more vague than the Redskins training camp. It even assumes huge revenues from the redeveloped Diamond site - like what? Remember the term 'voodoo economics'?

You've already heard the arguments against the project from us, so I won't go into that again - hopefully, it's like preaching

to the choir. Furthermore, the City's newspapers have identified the pros and cons on the issues, and, if you have been paying attention, you know that big money, property speculators and developers, political pressure, and 'the golden rule' (whoever has the gold makes the rules) are subverting the discourse and drowning out all else.

For the short-term, you must write to your Councilperson and other elected officials, and tell them in your own words what you dislike about the proposal and the process. If you live in an adjacent County, write the leaders and tell them you want them to support baseball at its present location, and you would rather have them contribute funds and help support the Diamond than have to fight your way into and out of the Bottom for a night of family baseball.

In your letters cite your environmental objections; traffic and access problems; unfair financing strategies using public funds instead of more private investment and baseball money. Cite the environmental/social injustice of building over sacred burial grounds and white-washing our nation's slave-trade history. Ask why Richmond's most historic and unique district is being traded for a theme-park mall much like many that mid-sized cities are building, with most losing money. Who, then, picks up the operations & maintenance tab and the huge debt retirement? Scott suggested that you may

want to pledge to boycott the Squirrels, or the stadium as a whole, if that resonates with you. It does to me!

Ask about the potential for flooding and massive infrastructure costs; ask why these funds aren't being spent on schools or the library; aging bridges and the new Riverfront plan? Ask why we are building a second working, viable baseball stadium when the World Biking Races are coming to Richmond in 2015? Where are the facilities for that?

Resolve to write your note or letter in the next few days, make a few points (the ones most important to you) and send a copy to the Mayor and the newspaper. Then, the next day, write the same letter, in long-hand or by snail-mail, to the next leader or decision-maker you know. The next day or two, the next on the list, etc. Write the Governor; write your Senators; write anyone who may listen.

Let them know how widespread, deep and determined our opposition is!

***"Keep the Stadium on the Boulevard
Where it Belongs! "***

For almost 20 speaking points, please contact John at jjzeugner@comcast.net or Scott at scottburger@me.com



Pollinators – Can't Live Without Them! *by Catherine Welsh*

It's very simple: pollination is the key to flowering plant life on this planet. Flowering plants are where we get our fruits and vegetables. Without the pollinators and the essential services they provide, we would be in serious trouble. In the United States over 100 of our crop plants rely on insect or animal pollination. Some of the grains like corn and wheat are wind pollinated and some of the fruits like oranges are self-pollinating but not enough to provide the foods and the seeds we need. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, and bats all of which co-evolved with the plants they pollinate. Pollination by native pollinators is very efficient due to this co-adaptation. All

pollinator populations are in decline not just the domesticated honeybee.

The FOJG Sierra Club is going to focus on aspects of this crisis and target some positive actions for our members over the course of the first half of 2014. We have



scheduled some exciting speakers for our program meetings and we are planning and exploring ways to educate our community and advocate to action.

Providing habitat for pollinators is the best way to help pollinators. It can be a corner of your yard, a window box, container gardens or a community garden. So to get us started here are 3 key actions: **1. Plant a variety of native plants to provide season long nectar and pollen sources.** **2. Protect nests and eggs by leaving the garden a little untidy and planting caterpillar host plants.** **3. DON'T use pesticides or herbicides – even organic pesticides can be harmful to pollinators.** Resources: www.pollinator.org; www.xerces.org

Guest Editorial: On Backyard Insect Fear, the Misunderstood Mosquito, Protecting Pollinators and Maintaining a Balanced Eco-System around Your Home *by Andrea Steegmayer, a member of our Group's Pollinators Task Force*

Just a couple of years ago companies all over the country began spraying/fogging residential front and backyards against mosquitoes. Originally, it was for special events, such as a wedding or a party held in the yard. It soon evolved into keeping yards mosquito free year round and monthly or bi-monthly spraying/fogging is required to achieve this. Competition for customers is fierce and the mosquito fogging is hailed as a great service that prevents the supposedly ever-present threat of death of humans by West Nile Virus or tick bite. Of course, we are also spared the annoyance of getting bitten by mosquitoes and no longer have to bother putting on mosquito protectants or wear long sleeves. These companies also boast that their products kill spiders and other "pests" that are invading every yard.

Mosquitoes and other so-called "pests" are an important part of the ecosystem and the food chain. Mosquitoes are an important protein food source to birds, fish, dragonflies, humming birds, frogs, bats, spiders, toads and other critters. Without it they will starve. Mosquitos are food for migrating birds in areas that are otherwise barren of other food sources. Fish and frogs depend on the mosquito larvae that they find in water. The male mosquito is a pollinator, since it does not depend on blood for nutrition. Mosquitoes themselves are an environmental filter, since they grow and feed on detritus that floats on the surface of water. Mosquitoes eat away the waste and allow oxygen to get



to the plants that grow in water. Mosquitoes are essential to the environment and without them animal populations would falter.

The fogging done by those companies kill spiders, dragonflies, butterflies, bees, wasps and all of them again are natural predators of mosquitoes. They are not pests, but rather something that makes a back yard a LIVING outdoor space.

Fogging and killing of mosquitoes has dangerous implications beyond the damage it does to the ecosystem. It may make mosquitoes resistant to the chemicals delivered and mosquitoes might evolve into a superbug. In addition, pollution is already greatly compromised and yet, we continue to put more and more chemicals into the atmosphere and into our drinking water and killing even more pollinators. Chemicals do not just dissolve. They are in the air we breathe, they wash away with rain into our storm drains and then into our rivers and most likely end up right there with us again when we turn on

the water faucet. It poisons our water sources and the air that we breathe. It poisons our environment.

Fear of West Nile Virus is out of proportion to the actual threat and greatly exaggerated. Tick bites and mosquito bites can easily be prevented with simple precautions and with the many repellants that are on the market for personal protection. Even without those, it is exceedingly rare to contract a disease from mosquito bites. While mosquito might be annoying to us, we are displaying an over-zealous approach to dealing with them and resort to the often used approach "Just kill it!" Historically, we have done this too many times and it has not served the environment or us well. The result was often the elimination of a total species and the destruction of habitat and predators that nature provides. We failed to realize each and every time that nature does know better than we do and that each and every one of those creatures has a specific purpose in nature. But, we have put our shortsighted interests and our interest in making a buck before anything else. We cannot continue with killing bees, spiders, mosquitoes, wasps, dragonflies and other critters that other animals depend on to survive. Next spring and summer even more backyards will be fogged and even more backyards will become sterile grassy areas. It will have an effect on everything around us. If we continue, we will bring on a silent spring in our residential neighborhoods.

2013 FOJG Sierra Club Member Interest Survey - Executive Summary

In the Fall, the Ex Comm set up an interest survey to determine some of our membership's values, priorities, and expectations. We had 67 Respondents, a good turnout.

Below you will find a basic summary of the responses - mainly the top 5 or 6 answers per question. The numbers in front of each response indicate the net number of votes the answer received.

1. What brought you to become a Sierra Club member and why have you continued your membership?

- 51** Concern for environmental causes
- 48** To get information about environmental issues
- 48** To make a difference on an environmental issue
- 41** Social interaction with like-minded people
- 36** I like staying informed through the local information Sierra Club gives me.
- 33** I want to take action on the local environmental issues.

2. What types of Sierra Club outings would you be interested in participating in?

- 44** Urban outings
- 42** Day hikes
- 35** Historical walks or tours
- 34** Hiking - easy
- 32** Conservation - related outings
- 30** Visits to local parks

3. In which formats do you prefer to

receive information about the Falls of the James Group activities?

- 44** Individual emails, such as action alerts or event invitations
- 36** The Fall Line printed newsletter
- 28** The Fall Line online newsletter (pdf. version available on website)
- 23** Falls of the James Group website
- 16** I like meeting in person.
- 15** Falls of the James Group Facebook page

4. What level would you consider yourself informed about the Falls of the James Group's activities, activism and advocacy?

- 33** Somewhat informed - I'll either check the website or read a newsletter, email or Facebook post occasionally.
- 23** Moderately informed - I check the website monthly, read relevant emails or Facebook posts and read the newsletter
- 06** Completely informed - I'm a volunteer leader: I start conversations by using email, I contribute to the newsletter/Facebook page/website, I organize and host meetings, Calls, events, and I hold a chapter or group volunteer title.

5. There are many ways to be involved with the Sierra Club in the Richmond metro area, I would be most interested in?

- 31** Clean ups.
- 24** Volunteer with an established

conservation issue or other specialized committee or team

- 24** Tree plantings.
- 24** Help with fund raising - Holiday Gala and Big Yard Sale
- 20** Contact public officials
- 18** Participate in demonstrations and or protests

6. Have you previously volunteered with the Falls of the James Group?

- 46** Yes
- 15** No

7. What are your top 3 environmental concerns?

- 31** Fighting for renewable energy is our future! Sign me up!
- 26** Reduce, re-use, recycle! We can never do enough.
- 21** Water is precious to all life and a valuable commodity.
- 16** Edward Abbey says: "Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit." Let's explore, enjoy, and protect it.
- 15** What the world needs now is to slow the human population growth.
- 14** Richmond's transportation systems need my attention.

We did have a contest, offering 2 free tickets to the Gala for a survey respondent drawn at random. Believe it or not, Glen Besa's response was the one drawn at random, so he and Tyla get free tickets to the Gala! Thanks to everyone who responded!

What's for our Holiday Dinners? by Catherine Welsh

What would you find at your Thanksgiving or Christmas holiday feasts if the pollinators went on strike or disappeared? You might have a turkey or ham but no green beans or lima beans, no squash or zucchini, no beets, no cranberry sauce, or pickles. You would also miss broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, brussel sprouts, carrots and

celery. You would have nothing seasoned with onions, garlic or parsley and no tomatoes. You could have wheat bread and potatoes but no butter or sour cream because the dairy cows eat insect-pollinated alfalfa and clover. You could have crackers but no cheeses.

So how about dessert? No pumpkin pie, no apple pie, no blueberry pie,

no coconut cake or plum pudding. No jellies or jams and no tangerines or oranges, no almonds or walnuts in your stocking. No wine because there are no grapes. No hazelnut coffee with cream or tea with lemon and NO CHOCOLATE.

No flowers on the table – what a bleak holiday feast without the work of our pollinators.

"Big Yard Sale" coming up in Spring 2014.

Mark your 2014 Sierra Club calendar for the week of Monday, May 12 through Saturday, May 17th, when FOJG members, friends and family will once again engage in the ultimate recycling event on the UR campus.

We will be ramping up collections during the several weekends before graduation weekend and we will need

a couple of crews to cruise the campus collecting the early discards. We'll be asking for volunteers for the weekend scavenger crews in the next Fall Line. John Z will be coordinating this and his number is 288-5005.

Monday, May 12th is the biggest collection day and we will need as many volunteers as possible. Think

about inviting your family members, neighbors or young men you know who could use a day's work and offer to pay them for their help. If you can afford it, it would benefit us all.

Look for the sign-up sheets in the April-June newsletter, reserve your spaces and help us maximize our efforts and help the group!

Falls of the James Group wins BIG National Sierra Club Award

Every year the National Sierra Club holds a major awards ceremony, recognizing noteworthy individuals, groups, programs and leaders who have made significant contributions to furthering the Sierra Club's mission and protecting the environment. You may recall that in 2006 Ralph White received the Distinguished Service Award for his leadership and vision for the James River Park System, and Dr. Charles Price, former Group Chair and State Chapter Chair, was awarded a special achievement Award in 2011.

This spring, Jane Hotchkiss, with your Executive Committee's support, nominated our Group for a national award for our Big Yard Sale, in partnership with the University of Richmond. Jane's well-written application combined with our Group's major fundraising initiative of the past 16 years and our commitment to reduce, reuse and recycle on a campus-wide scale made us all WINNERS! The Sierra Club invited one group member to attend the award

ceremony in San Francisco to accept the award for the group, so your Executive Committee elected to send our chair, Adele Maclean. The two BYS co-chairs, Tamara Smith and John Zeugner, also wanted to attend, so plans were made to fly to San Francisco in mid - September.

The awards ceremony, on Sept 21st, was hosted by David Scott, the Sierra Club President and Michael Brune, the National Executive Director. Our specific award, the Denny and Ida Wilcher Award

recognizes excellence in fundraising and/or membership development and it included a \$3,000 award, one of only two monetary awards given!

The evening was very nice, the setting was on the top floor of the Marines' Memorial Hotel and the atmosphere was warm and upbeat - it was uplifting to hear of so many people and so many projects making a difference. Adele accepted the handsome glass trophy and Tamara and John stood behind her on the stage. The MC announced that we made \$10,000-\$12,000 per year on the BYS recycling effort, which we split with the UR students. You could hear the crowd react with amazement at the success of our fundraising. It was very gratifying!

This award represents the united effort and work of our entire Group and our many BYS volunteers! So, from your Executive Committee, thank you all for your dedication, assistance and support of the Big Yard Sale! Congratulations, YOU WON!



Put Your Tax-Free Dollars to Work Here in Central Virginia

Tax year 2013 could be one of the last years in which taxpayers can deduct donations to tax free organizations such as The Sierra Club Foundation. Past donations to TSCF have supported local Environmental Film Festivals, recycling

campaigns, youth education, and the educational content of this newsletter. Please consider helping further our mission by making your donation before the holiday rush in order to secure your tax deduction for 2013. Checks

must be made to "The Sierra Club Foundation" with notation "Falls of the James Group Acct GG3552". Contact Marybeth Mains, Treasurer for further instructions and mailing address. marybeth125@verizon.net

Election of Executive Committee Delegates for 2014-2016

The Falls of the James Group holds elections of Group delegates every fall. Each Group's Ex Comm should have 9 members. The 2-year terms of 4 members expires in December 2013: Jane Hotchkiss, Adele Maclean, Andrew Payne, and Eric Vrabel. Adele and Eric have agreed to serve for another 2-year term. Jane & Andrew chose not to run again. Also, Wendy Floyd has decided to step down, due to family and work demands.

Therefore, we have 3 vacancies and 2 current committee members running again. The Ex Comm appointed a nominating committee called a dozen group members about their interest in serving; 2 agreed and their names are on the ballot, along with their biographical sketches. Their names, along with our 2 incumbents, are on the ballot below.

If you have an interest in joining our Executive

Committee, the best path would be to join one of our committees or volunteer frequently at our public events. The committee leaders get to know you better and you get a feel for our goals, teamwork, and work and time commitments. Another way would be to come to some of our monthly Executive Committee meetings (usually the Wednesday before our general meetings) and get involved.

This OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT contains your membership label on the back, so we can tell you are an active member. Please detach this official ballot to vote.

Vote the left column for single membership or use both columns for joint membership; (If two names appear on your label). Vote for up to 4 candidates. You may ink out the name and mailing address on the reverse of the ballot, but PLEASE do not ink out or remove the mailing label with your membership number. Only members may vote. Mail the ballot to: **Elections Committee; P. O. Box 25201, Richmond VA 23260.** This must be postmarked **NO LATER THAN 27 December 2013.**

The Ex Com Elections Committee will count the votes and confirm the election results at our January 8, 2014 Executive Committee meeting. The elected Executive Committee Delegates will be introduced at our January 15, 2014 General Meeting. Thank you for your participation!

Group Delegate 2014 Election Candidates:

_____ **Stefan Bogdanovic**
_____ **Adele MacLean**
_____ **Eric Vrabel**
_____ **Ralph White**
_____ **Write-In Candidate**

Stefan Bogdanovic: *Stefan is from Austria, and has been living in Richmond for four years. He's been a Sierra Club member for 4 years, and a he presented a program to our group last year on large-scale solar projects.*

He says ...growing up in Austria in the 1970s, I was confronted with city recycling bins at every house, glass bottle return programs, and the oil crises. Most of Europe realized that their natural resources had to be used efficiently and conserved carefully. In the neighboring former Eastern Bloc countries I experienced acid rain, pollution from old vehicles, unfiltered sewer systems into the sea ...and public indifference. I idolized the U.S., and now that I live here I see that nothing is perfect here either! I have learned that grass-roots organizations initiate change with activism and education, and organized groups create movements, which the mainstream follows.

Open-minded in diversified international industries with an academic business background, I am committed to visionary strategic solutions. For more than 20 years I have built international political relationships and connected business leaders. I work analytically with data to achieve excellence. Well if that sounds strict I also like to do outdoor sports, attend art events, relax in the nature, and learn more about our world by travelling.

My contribution as an Executive Committee member would be to inspire our regional leaders and enhance the public awareness of the many benefits of renewable energy. I want to appeal to the public with common sense solutions and demonstrate successful projects in field trips. I also want to help uncover the stories behind the fight to achieve sustainability for energy and building standards, so we can challenge the status quo and open peoples' minds to what is possible.

When I contemplate the environment and nature I am convinced the most terrible enemy of climate change is not CO2 - instead, it is indifference! Each of us must take responsibility! My mission is to challenge the indifference and show a win-win situation for our lifestyle and the environment.

Adele Maclean: *Adele has been with the FOJG for 7 years and is our current Group Chair and previously served as our FOJG representative to the State Executive Committee. She also heads the Group's Conservation Committee, which has been advocating recycling and supervised last year's Richmond region school recycling film contest. She has a law degree, has worked for the VA Commission on the Future, and is now working in Richmond for VA's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, coordinating special conferences for local government attorneys.*

Eric Vrabel: *Eric is originally from a small town in Pennsylvania. His job is Software Development but his passions are environmentalism and animal rights. He is on the FOJG Executive Committee and is the Web Master and Vice-Chair. Eric also helps the group with HELEN (the SC national membership and activist data base) and social media. Additionally, he is on the RVA Environmental Film Festival planning committee. Outside of FOJG, Eric is a member of the Vegetarian Society of Richmond, the organizer of the Richmond Vegetarian/Vegan Eat up Group and a member of the Richmond Vegetarian Festival Planning Committee.*

Eric would like to continue as a member of the FOJG Executive Committee. Going forward, he would like to concentrate on the websites, membership database and social media; all of which leverage his technical skills. Additionally, Eric plans to help the group to become more organized and involved with regulating Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

Ralph White: *Ralph is the former manager of the James River Park System, where the management plan was to create "A Little Bit of Wilderness in the Heart of the City" and the method was to do this by seeking the guidance and help of citizens and users. The goal was to foster adventure recreation and aesthetic appreciation.*

Ralph graduated from Wesleyan University and served in the Peace Corps in Thailand. He joined Sierra Club in 1978 and held various positions in the Falls of the James Group including Outings Chair, Volunteer Chair, Representative to the state EXCOM and local Club Chairman. He received the Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award from the National Sierra Club in 2006!

When asked why I'd like to be on the EXCOM: This local group of the Sierra Club helped to both mold the quality of life in the city I live in and enabled me to work at the place I loved. I have seen the club make direct impacts on the James River Park System - trail-building, signage, many clean-ups, and most importantly, the Club and the Group have been my unwavering advocates and allies, sharing my vision of experiencing nature and protecting the outdoors!

Personally and professionally, as a river-lover and a Richmond resident, I have benefitted greatly from the Falls of the James Group - and now I would like to give back.

Sierra Club
Falls of the James Group
 P.O. Box 25201
 Richmond, VA 23260
www.virginia.sierraclub.org/foj

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Richmond, VA
Permit Number 3022



**General Membership Meetings, Third Wednesday Each Month at 7 pm.,
 September - November and January - May at the Jepson Alumni House, on the U of R campus.
 Meetings are free and the public is invited to attend.
<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 Catherine Welsh welshcm@verizon.net
Treasurer Mary Beth Mains marybeth125@verizon.net

Group Delegates Elected by Membership (Ex Comm)
 Scott Burger EXPIRES Dec 14
 Adele MacLean EXPIRES Dec 13
 Mary Beth Mains EXPIRES Dec 14
 Eric Vrabel EXPIRES Dec 13
 Catherine Welsh EXPIRES Dec 14
 John Zeugner EXPIRES Dec 14

The Executive Committee meets usually the second Wednesday, August - June 6:30 pm at the SC VA Chapter Office, 422 E Franklin St, Suite 302. Visitors are welcome to attend!

Group Committees Needing Chairs

Bike-Ped Membership Vacant
Political/Legislative Vacant
University liaisons: VCU, VUU, UR ALL Vacant
Volunteer Coordinator Vacant
Twitter and Meet-Up Vacant



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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"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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 Please use the contact information herein.

Newsletter Editor: John J Zeugner, AICP 804-288-5005 Email: jjzeugner@comcast.net
 Newsletter Design & Composition by **Communications Art and Design**.
 Office: 804.264.2686 Mobile: 804.305.6579 Email: Ed@CommunicationsArtandDesign.com

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