Sept. 2015 Newsletter: Fall Schedule



FALLS OF THE JAMES GROUP

Exciting Speakers Scheduled for Fall Meetings: 2nd Wed. each month / 7:00 / UR Jepson Center



SEPTEMBER 9: Our War on The Meadow: What the Decline of the Monarch and Bobwhite Tell Us by J. Christopher Ludwig, Chief Biologist, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

In the US monarch butterflies and bobwhite quail populations have diminished almost 10,000 fold in the past 20 years. This program will look at the sources determined to eliminate any semblance of meadows in our region, and discuss ways to cultivate better habitats at our homes and in our neighborhoods.

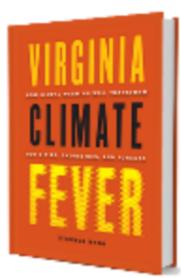
Milkweed seeds with germinating and growing instructions will be available at no charge at this meeting! Please join us!



OCTOBER 14: Promoting Sustainability in Indonesia and Other Third World Countries by Marlaine Smith, Parks Operations Manager, City of Richmond

Marlie Smith will tell of her Indonesian experience examining outdated programs of agriculture and water uses. Learn how some of these programs were turned around by new insights and the discovery of much older, common-sense synergies.

ALSO: Update on VA political candidates AND Plant Swap at 6:00 -- before the program



NOVEMBER 11: Virginia Climate Fever--How Global Warming Will Transform our Cities, Shorelines & Forests

by **Steve Nash**, Environmental Research Scholar at University of Richmond

Steve Nash will discuss his 2014 book which details how Virginia's climate has already begun to change. Nash asserts that significant warming and more drought will affect the state's cities and agriculture, impacting urban and coastal areas, imperiling the forests that cover 60 percent of the state, and harming the Chesapeake Bay- perhaps even bringing infectious diseases to Virginia.



December 8: Save the Date!

Sierra Club FOJG Holiday Dinner 7:30 p.m. at_Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. <u>GardenFest of Lights</u> included.

Details to follow



RVA's Amazing Raise coming September 16 & 17, 2015

The **Sierra Club Foundation** is a participant in the Community Foundation's 2015 Amazing Raise, an online effort to raise funds for nonprofit organizations in the Richmond area. This campaign builds excitement by lasting only 36 hours, from 6 am on Wednesday, September 16 until 6 pm on Thursday, September 17. In keeping with the Sierra Club Foundation's mission to educate and inspire, a portion of the donations to the Foundation will be used to help support Richmond's Environmental Film Festival.

To get in the spirit, you are invited . . .

- On Wednesday, September 16 at 6 pm to Sierra Club Foundation's Amazing Happy Hours on the lawn of Tamara Smith, 5314 Dorchester Road. Please come prepared to donate and feast on hot dogs, beans and drinks. (You're welcome to bring a dish and a lawn chair or two). Please RSVP to tamsmith47@gmail.com.
- On Thursday, September 17, 4-6 pm to the Sierra Club Foundation's Amazing Raise Procrastinator's Happy Hour, at Gus's Bar and Grill, 2701 W. Broad Street, RVA.

Donations (a \$25 minimum) are accepted on the **internet only** using Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express credit or debit card. Cash and checks are not accepted. Please be aware that your donation of \$50 to **Sierra Club Foundation** will help qualify the Foundation for one of many of the Amazing Raise money prizes.

It's easy! Just go to <u>www.theamazingraise.org</u> and choose **Sierra Club Foundation**. You may choose to make a gift in honor of your favorite Sierran, or in memory of any individual. Unless you decide to donate anonymously your name will be shared with The Sierra Club Foundation. There is no fee to donate and you will receive an immediate acknowledgement, thank you, and printable tax receipt for 100% of your donation.

All right, Sierrans, LET'S BE AMAZING!

Chairperson Adele MacLean facilitated the FOJG Retreat in July 2015. The Executive Committee, after examining "What We Are Proud Of" and "What We Would Like To See Change," agreed on three large areas of focus for the coming year: Member Engagement, Long-Term Planning, and Communications.

Later, the ExCom voted to encourage active member engagement by reimbursing half the registration fee to a member who attends the annual State Chapter Gathering in late September. Applications are welcome.



COMMITTEE

Adele MacLean, Chairperson am7m@virginia.edu Joe Brancoli, Secretary omethid@hotmail.com Andrew Peacock, Treasurer shavonandrew@verizon.net **Stefan Bogdanovic** sbogi@hotmail.com Scott Burger scottburger@me.com Mary Crutchfield marycrutchfield@verizon.net **Eric Vrabel** evrabel@yahoo.com Ralph R. White ralphrwhite@aol.com

Chair

FOJG needs a new Program Chair, since I am retiring from this position. I have arranged for speakers until the end of 2015 and will be glad to help anyone setting up activities and engaging speakers for the winter and spring programs. Interested? Give me a call!

John Z 804-288-5005



Sierra Club's Falls of the James Group general membership meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Meetings are held at 7 pm on the 2nd Wed. of each month, September-November and January-April at the

Jepson Alumni Center, University of Richmond.



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