

April 2016 Newsletter Falls of the James Group Sierra Club

Recommended: [View this in your browser.](#)



LAST MEETING THIS SPRING: Wednesday, April 13, 7:00

JOIN US at UR's Jepson Alumni Center

DAMIAN PITT, Associate Professor at VCU will speak on "The Future Potential for Solar Energy in Virginia."

He has completed studies with VCU students on expanding the use of solar energy to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels to generate electricity.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Great *Big* Yard Sale :
May 14 at UR

AND YOU CAN BE PART OF IT!
VOLUNTEER [HERE!](#)



Volunteers Needed Before the Sale

Join in to prepare for FOJG's 19th Big Yard Sale (BYS), a joint project with University of Richmond. Last year's BYS was a great success in every way: rescuing departing students' discards, diverting this good stuff from the landfill, having good fellowship, and generating over \$10,000 to be shared by the Sierra Club and UR Green!

Nearly 100 volunteers worked together on this great project, and volunteers are needed again this year. To sign on for this terrific effort, read the task description on the registration form and select a task that appeals to you. You are welcome to invite a friend -- please register them also. Click on the URL to register:

<http://tinyurl.com/j6ulfms>

Here are the dates where we need the most volunteers:

- **Mon., May 9: Collection Day (all day)- 80 volunteers**
- **Tues., May 10: Final Sorting (all day)- 20 volunteers**
- **Fri., May 13: Private Pre-sale for UR Faculty and Staff only (5:30 to 8:30 PM)- 15 volunteers**
- **Sat., May 14: Public Sale (7:30 -2 PM)- 20 volunteers**

ALSO Early Collections at various days/times beginning mid-April

The BYS committee is working hard to make this years' BYS a success. Committee members include Joe Brancoli, Mary Crutchfield, Daryl Downing, Andrew

Peacock, Roger Pittard, Carol Pontius, Bob Pontius, Gil Sigmon, Tamara Smith, Steve Yarus.

We hope you consider volunteering. You will find that it is a rewarding and fun event. Please feel free to contact Gill Sigmon, BYS Volunteer Coordinator, at (804)919-2868 or gill.sigmon1@gmail.com

Saturday, April 23: Earth Day at Shiplock Park



Join FOJG workers at the Sierra Club booth on Earth Day at Shiplock Park, 2803 Dock Street. (Directions [here](#).) Before or after your shift, join the crowd and enjoy other eco-friendly activities including a craft market, art activities, and family-friendly fun. Sign up [here](#).

Also upcoming . . .

May 18, 5:30-8:15

The 2016 FOJG Volunteer Appreciate Pot Luck Picnic and Plant Exchange will be at the Carillon Shelter in Byrd Park (near Barker Field, the dog park). Plan now for the Spring Plant Exchange: bring a plant, take a plant.

May 14, 6:00-9:00

Retirement Dinner for Glen Besa The Director of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club for the last 20 years is retiring this spring. The retirement dinner in Glen Besa's honor will be held May 14 at The Depot, 814 W Broad St. \$50 per person. Reservations [here](#) or for more information contact eileen.levandoski@sierraclub.org.

Honoring Sierra Club Champions

David Bernard (far right) is moving to Florida. Giving a toast to David for his years of commitment to water conservation in VA are Gill Sigmon, Andrew Payne, Glen Besa, Tyla Matteson, and Kendyl Crawford.



This bench in memory of **Erich Von Ruffer** (1933-2014) was recently erected in Forest Hill Park near the dam on the park lake. The plaque on the bench says it all: "He was an engineer, an advocate for the environment, a nature lover, and a proud member of the Sierra Club." Thanks to John Zeugner and Marlie Smith of Richmond Parks Dept. for their efforts in completing this project.

FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Adele MacLean, Chairperson
am7m@virginia.edu
Joe Brancoli, Secretary
omethid@hotmail.com
Andrew Peacock, Treasurer
shavonandrew@verizon.net
Scott Burger
scottburger@me.com
Mary Crutchfield
marycrutchfield@verizon.net

FOJG New Committee Structure

FOJG's Executive Committee voted in March on an organizational change that consolidates current committees into three major committees, as follows:

- **Communications Committee** comprised of former Enews, Website, and Publicity Committees.
- **Conservation & Advocacy**

Steve Heinitz

srheinit@vcu.edu

Bruce Tarr

bruce.tarr@comcast.net

Ralph R. White

ralphrwhite@aol.com

Darryl Downing (VA ExCom liaison)

dtdowning@comcast.net

Committee comprised of former

Conservation, Legislative/
Political, Pollinators, and Bike/Ped
Committees.

Membership Engagement

Committee comprised of former
Membership, Program, Outings, and
Fundraising Committees.

New members welcome.

Interested? Contact Joe Brancoli,
omethid@hotmail.com



VA Sierra Club



FOJG Website



VA Sierra Club

Copyright © 2016 Fall of the James Group, Sierra Club, All rights reserved.

VA Sierra Club, Falls of the James Group

Our mailing address is:

Fall of the James Group, Sierra Club
P.O. Box 25201
Richmond, VA 23260

[Add us to your address book](#)

