

May 2016 Newsletter Falls of the James Group Sierra Club

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



Great *Big* Yard Sale

Sale date: Saturday, May 14. 8 am-noon
Millhiser Gym (map [HERE](#))

BUT WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS BEFORE THE SALE!



Jamie Ryland and friend, Joe Brancoli, and John Tichenor pause while loading the trailer.

Volunteers Needed Before the Sale, especially May 9

Our 19th Big Yard Sale (BYS), the Falls of the James Group joint project with the University of Richmond (UR), is underway. The Early Collecting phase, where students provide donations as they check out of their dormitories after exams, began April 24th. Over twenty volunteers have been collecting goods daily and loading them in a huge tractor trailer.

Monday May 9th is the **BIG COLLECTION DAY**, when students check out of their apartments and leave behind the bulk of the goods that are collected and sold the following weekend. What isn't collected on Monday or Tuesday by volunteers goes to the landfill. Every year we miss many recoverable goods which then go to the landfill because of **too few volunteers**. So please, please register [HERE](#) to help out on **Monday, May 9th** (lunch provided) or explore other volunteer opportunities during BYS week. Photographer needed, too. Feel free to contact Gill Sigmon, BYS Volunteer Coordinator, at (804)919-2868 or gill.sigmon1@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 14--the BIG YARD SALE

All these rescued treasures fill Millhiser Gym to the brim. The public sale is Saturday, May 14 from 8 am-noon. At 8:00 there will be a line--others have gotten wind of the great bargains! Imagine a gym piled high with everything a college student needs: clothes, kitchen items of every description, furniture, rugs, linens, shoes, sport equipment--and, yes, books!

The sale shows that individuals can have a personal impact on saving the environment. It is also an event that allows all members and friends to take part in an effort that furthers the initiatives and programs of the Falls of the James Group.

Also upcoming . . .

Wednesday, May 18, 5:30-8:15

Pot Luck Picnic and Plant Exchange

Come to the Carillon Shelter in Byrd Park (near the [Barker Field](#)) to celebrate the completion of the Big Yard Sale at UR and relax with folks who made it happen. To make the evening more special, Glen Besa, retiring Director of the VA Chapter of the Sierra Club will be our guest.. As always, we encourage you to wear or bring the most unusual thing you found at the sale.

Pot Luck Dinner: Here are some reminders.

- Please label your dish and state whether it is omni, vegetarian or vegan.
- Bring a serving spoon.
- Appetizers, mains, sides and desserts are all welcome.
- Alcohol is not allowed in the park, so bring something soft.
- Bring your own plates, utensils, napkins, and beverage containers.

Spring Plant Exchange:

Perfect for the person who has too many of some plants but wants to try growing some new ones. Just bring your extras to the FOJG Plant Exchange. Easy enough . . .bring a plant, take a plant; bring 5 plants, take 5 plants. Or don't bring any and take a couple; there are always extras! We will do the exchange beside the Carillon Shelter before and during our pot luck dinner.

Please pot or bag each plant separately for ease of exchange. Native plants will be most welcome since they help support native pollinators. Questions? Contact Catherine Welsh 804-745-1512 welshcm@verizon.net

Saturday, 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 Street. \$50 per person. Reservations [here](#) or for more information contact eileen.levandoski@sierraclub.org.

Tuesday, May 24, 6:30

Watershed Restoration Initiative Meeting

Plant a Garden, Restore the Watershed

by Gil Sigmon

Virginia is blessed with a glorious system of rivers and streams, a network that feeds the greatest gem of all, the Chesapeake Bay. Most of you know the challenges this great watershed faces, including habitat destruction from storm water runoff and excess nutrients. And most of you also know that storm water containment via rain barrels and rain gardens can help with these problems.



Raging Reedy Creek



Fertilizers in run-off result in algae bloom in Reedy Creek

So you ask, this seems easy, why not plant gardens and install rain barrels? And you are correct, this is easy. And yes, we can plant rain gardens and install rain barrels at our homes. But this isn't enough. Others must install rain gardens. Others must install rain barrels. So, what to do? Would you help others install a rain garden? Would you help others install a rain barrel?

If you would be willing to help restore the watershed, then consider joining the Falls of the James Group Watershed Restoration Initiative. An organizational meeting will held Tuesday, May 24th at 6:30 PM at 5314 Dorchester Rd. Please contact Gill Sigmon (804)919-2868, gill.sigmon1@gmail.com for additional information.

Graphics provided courtesy of the Reedy Creek Coalition,

www.Reedycreekcoalition.com



Cistern collects rain water from apartment roof

FOJG Involvements

In an effort to beautify the community, FOJG members Ralph White, Catherine Welsh, Andrew Peacock and Joe Brancoli planted



bulbs last fall in tree wells along Hull Street between Commerce Avenue and Jefferson Davis Highway. Daffodils and grape hyacinths bloomed about April 1, bringing spring to the urban landscape.

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
Steve Heinitz
srheinit@vcu.edu
Bruce Tarr
bruce.tarr@comcast.net
Ralph R. White
ralphrwhite@aol.com
Daryl Downing (VA ExCom liaison)
dtdowning@comcast.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 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.

