

Sept. 2016 Newsletter Falls of the James Group Sierra Club

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NOTE: All Monthly Meetings to move to Science Museum (2500 W. Broad). 2nd TUESDAY of each month, 7:00 p.m.

At the FOJG meetings, materials for recycling (except for light bulbs) will still be accepted from those who do not have pick-up at home. Please note that all number plastics (1-7) are now being accepted by CVWMA in our curbside recycle bins.

FIRST MEETING THIS FALL Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7:00 JOIN US at Science Museum



Bill Shanabruch, awarded Volunteer of the 2012 Year of the Reedy Creek Coalition, will describe what you can do on your property to help the James River Watershed. Bill will lead a followup workshop and field exercise on October 1 for those interested -- see below.

ALSO Gill Sigmon, chair of the FOJG Watershed Restoration Committee, and Liz Chudoba Program Chairman of Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will describe the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, a program that provides grants which can cover up to



75% of a homeowner's cost for watershed projects including Bayscapes and Rain Gardens.



**OCTOBER MEETING:
Tuesday, Oct.11, 7:00
at Science Museum of VA**

CLYDE CHRISTMAN, Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, will bring us up to speed on DCR endeavors and share thoughts on global warming issues within the Department.

UPCOMING: September Raise
6 AM Wed., Sept. 14 through
6 PM Thurs., Sept. 15
Contribute [HERE](#)
Let's do it!

Put your tax free dollars to work right here in Central Virginia by contributing to the Falls of the James Group's Sierra Club (FOJG-SC) Foundation account. Many of you contributed to last year's Amazing Raise which is no longer available to Richmond nonprofits. But FOJG is keeping the tradition alive by challenging you to help raise \$3,500 in just 36 hours to be used to help fund the VA Environmental Film Festival, Watershed Restoration Education, and other FOJG educational programs.

Please mark your calendar to contribute during these 36 hours: Wednesday, Sept.14 at 6 AM, through Thursday, Sept.15 at 6 PM. **Tax deductible donations may be made by credit, debit card or check [HERE](#). Thanks for your generosity !**

UPCOMING:
VA Sierra Club Annual Gathering
Sept. 23-25
Hungry Mother State Park

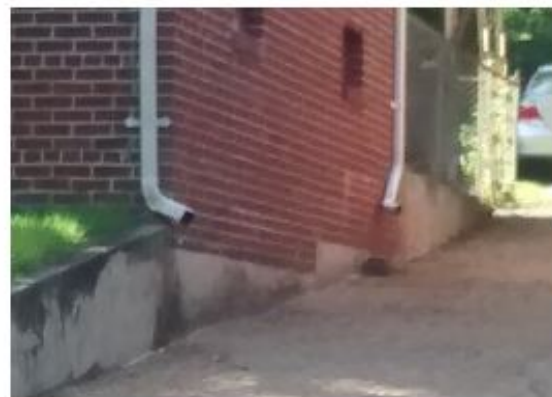
The Annual Gathering of the VA Sierra Club will be held in the far southwestern town of Marion, VA. As customary, activities include speakers, workshops, live music and hikes. See <http://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/gathering> for details. The Falls of the James Group will reimburse half of the registration fee for any FOJG member who attends the Gathering. Call Tamara Smith 804-647-8130 for details.

UPCOMING:
Storm Water Assessment Workshop
Sat., Oct. 1

Do you have downspouts that discharge to a road or driveway? (see below) If so, then your property might be a candidate for a VA CAP grant.

If interested, contact Gill Sigmon at 804-919-2868 or gill.sigmon1@gmail.com. There will be a Storm Water Assessment Workshop to determine if watershed restoration is necessary. The workshop will be conducted by Bill Shanabruch of the Reedy Creek Coalition. A one-hour classroom session will be followed by a two-hour field exercise.

Storm Water Assessment Workshop
Saturday, October 1, 9:00 AM
5314 Dorchester Rd., Richmond, VA



FOJG Spring/Summer Re-Cap

At the **ANNUAL RETREAT** of the **FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** on August 27, the group decided that *Climate Change as It Impacts our James River Watershed* would be the FOJG's focus for activities and talks during the coming year. Look for new ideas, insights, and activities on this important theme.

2016 BIG YARD SALE FINANCIAL REPORT

Final accounting for BYS in May shows it was one of the best years ever (and this is the 19th anniversary of the BYS). Thanks go to the BYS Committee (Joe Brancoli, Mary Crutchfield, Daryl Downing, Deborah Hawkins, Andrew Peacock, Roger Pittard, Bob Pontius, Carol Pontius, Gil Sigmon, Tamara Smith, and Steve Yarus), to the UR Staff, and especially to the 110 volunteers who made it happen, A look at the figures below is verification of its financial success!

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Income	11549	14155.31	14490.39	15973.54	12802.18	16197.73
Expenses	1798.61	3058.74	3472.37	2907.22	3367.73	4252.81
Net profit to be split with GreenUR	9750.39	11096.57	11018.02	13066.32	9434.45	11944.92

A PLANT EXCHANGE

accompanied the picnic in May and attracted both new and experienced growers. Native VA plants and old favorites are in abundance--all donated by a "clean out your garden" effort. Next Plant Exchange?

Before the monthly meeting on October 11.



A TOUR OF THE TIDEWATER FIBER CORPORATION'S (TFC) MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY in Chester VA was an eyeopener to all who participated. Mountains of trash were sorted and bundled into 1200+ pound blocks, ready to send off.



Good news: New regulations allow us to recycle more materials including plastics #1-7 and waxy coated juice boxes and milk cartons.

Completing a **WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT**, six FOJG volunteers joined Lorne Fields, Chesterfield County Environmental Outreach Coordinator, in installing a rain garden at the residence of Paula Reed. Lorne Fields designed the rain garden; managed logistics including mulch, bio-retention soil, plants, wheelbarrows and shovels, and helped Paula Reed obtain a grant from Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (vaswcd.org) to finance 75% of the cost of the project.

Click [HERE](#) to volunteer for other

FOJG Watershed Restoration Projects.



Working with [Lorn Fields](#), [Paula Reed](#) and her mother, are [Joe Brancoli](#), [Jamie Ryland](#), [Bob Campbell](#), [Larry Roussel](#), [Dan Rusnak](#). Also [Gill Sigmon](#) (taking picture).

Green Goings-On with Links for More Info

- 9/9-9/10 [VA Environmental Assembly](#) UVA
- 9/10 [James River Clean-up](#) 9:00-1:00 AM
- 9/13 FOJG Sept. Meeting 7:00 PM See this newsletter.
- 9/14-9/15 *September Raise* See this newsletter.
- 9/20 [RVA City Council Candidates Forum](#) 6:00-9:00 PM
- 9/23-9/25 [Sierra Club of VA Annual Gathering](#) Marion, VA
- 9/25 [Electronics and Doc. Shredding Event](#) 6807 Midlothian Trnpg. 10:00-2:00
- 9/27 [Congressional Candidates Forum for VA 4th & 7th Districts](#) 6:00-9:00 PM
- 10/1 Stormwater Assessment Workshop 9:00 AM See this newsletter.

FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Adele MacLean, Chairperson

FOJG Committee Structure

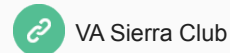
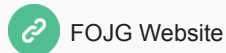
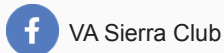
- **Communications Committee** comprises Enews, Website, Publicity and Social

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Ralph R. White
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Darryl Downing (VA ExCom liaison)
dtdowning@comcast.net

Media.

- **Conservation & Advocacy Committee** comprises Conservation, Legislative/Political, Pollinators, and Bike/Ped.
- **Membership Engagement Committee** comprises Membership, Programs, Outings, and Fundraising.

**New members welcome.
Interested? Contact Joe
Brancoli,
omethid@hotmail.com**



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