

# February 2017 Newsletter

## Falls of the James Group

### Sierra Club

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## 2017 Winter/Spring Schedule

Details Below

- Feb.6-12, & Feb. 18 -- [Environmental Film Festival](#)
- Feb.14 -- Meeting: "In Love with James River" Jamie Brunkow, speaker
- Feb.15 -- Letter to the Editor writing workshop.
- Feb. 22 - Anthony Flaccavento, author, at Richmond Public Main Library
- Mar.14 -- Meeting: "Ridin' Along with GRTC" Carrie Rose Pace, speaker
- April 8 -- Speaker and Outing on Watershed Restoration
- April 11 - Meeting: "Strategies for Resiliency in a Changing Climate"  
Jeremy Hoffman, speaker
- April 16 - SC Booth at Monument Avenue Easter Parade
- April 22 - Earth Day
- May 19-20--Big Yard Sale (May 15 -- biggest "volunteers needed" day.  
Put dates on your calendar now!)

# RVA ENVIRONMENTAL Film Festival

FEB. 6-12 and FEB. 18

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

with links to commentary and film trailers

**MON., FEB. 6, 6:30-9:30 PM**, Main Branch, Richmond Public Library. [\*City of Trees\*](#) & [\*The Birth of Sake\*](#)

**TUES., FEB. 7, 6:30-8:30 PM** Ukrop Auditorium, Robins School of Business, U. of Richmond. [\*Planetary\*](#) (followed by reception).

**WED., FEB. 8, 6:30-8:15 PM**, N. Courthouse Road Branch, Chesterfield County Library, [\*Plastic Paradise\*](#)

**THURS., FEB. 9, 6:30-10:30 PM**, Grace Street Theater, VCU. [\*How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change\*](#) & [\*The True Cost of Fashion\*](#)

**FRI., FEB. 10, 6:30 PM**, The Visual Arts Center, Richmond. [\*Seed-The Untold Story\*](#), [\*Age of the Farmer\*](#), [\*Elk River\*](#) & [\*Facing the Surge\*](#)

**SAT., FEB. 11, 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM**, Byrd Theater. [\*Lorax\*](#), [\*Disney Nature Oceans\*](#), [\*The Last Dragons\*](#), [\*Rabbit Island\*](#), [\*Bag It, Stink\*](#), [\*Red Wolf Revival\*](#), [\*Beautiful Swimmers Revisited\*](#), & [\*Bugs\*](#).

**SUN., FEB 12, 1:30-6:30 PM**, Byrd Theater. [\*The Messenger\*](#), Local Film Contest Winners, [\*Time to Choose\*](#).

**SAT., FEB. 18, 1:30 PM**, Byrd Theater. [\*Catching the Sun\*](#) followed by panel discussion.

### **Announcing the Annual Virginia RVA EFF film contest winners**

The winning entry for the 2017 RVA EFF Virginia Film Contest is "Troubled Water: Voices From Bath". Filmmakers Barb Adams, Julian McBain, and Sam Wright will receive the grand prize of a \$1,000 for their collaborative project. Runner up prizes and checks for \$100 each go to Priya Jaishanker for "Mission



RareQuest", and Ellie Morris for "Bike Your Boat".

"Mission RareQuest" showcases valuable field work done by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program in the setting of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. "Bike Your Boat" reveals the novel solution arrived at by a James River paddler who wants to go green. The timely "Troubled Water: Voices From Bath" documents the potential impacts of proposed pipeline in Bath County, while sharing the stories of residents who are banding together to defend the environment.

These winning films will be screened at the Byrd Theater on Sunday, February 12. The Sierra Club Falls of the James group donated the money for the prizes; EnRichmond Foundation, Capital Region Land Conservancy, Viridiant, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and many others have been working together to make sure this year's festival is the best yet.

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## UPCOMING WINTER MEETINGS



**February 14, 2017 Meeting:**  
***"In Love With James River"***  
*7:00 at Science Museum of Virginia*

**Jamie Brunkow**, *Lower James Riverkeeper and committed environmentalist and educator*, will

*present a Valentine's Day talk, "In Love with James River." Environmental achievements, possibilities for watershed restoration and present issues regarding the James will be discussed. Jamie's experience on the Rappahannock, Sassafras and now the James Rivers gives him insight on keeping our river waters healthy.*

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**March 14, 2017 Meeting**  
**"Ridin' Along with GRTC"**

7:00 at Science Museum of Virginia

*Carrie Rose Pace, Director of Communications at GRTC as well as a Certified Broadcast Meteorologist, will speak on GRTC's efforts related to adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Her background allows her to view public transit from both the transit and the science perspective.*

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**April 11, 2017 Meeting**  
**"Climate Connections in Virginia: Strategies for Resiliency in a Changing Climate"**

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

*Dr. Jeremy Hoffman, Science Museum of Virginia Climate and Earth Science Specialist, will give guests an in-depth look at what climate change is, how it's happening, its impacts and how we can adapt.*

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## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AUTHOR TALK by ANTHONY FLACCAVENTO**  
**"BUILDING HEALTHY ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE AGE OF TRUMP"**

**Anthony Flaccavento**, an organic farmer and small business owner in Virginia, is author of *Building a Healthy Economy from the Bottom Up*. Now president of SCALE, Inc., he has become a regional and national advocate for sustainable economic development, about which he has formed organizations, launched enterprises, given talks, and written many articles. Learn about sustainable economic development at the Main Richmond Public Library, 101 E. Franklin Street 6:30-8:30 on Wednesday Feb. 22.

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### WORKSHOP

A **Letters to the Editor Workshop** presented by Mary Stuart Torbeck, Sierra Club Richmond Community Outreach Coordinator, will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 in Virginia Sierra Club State Office, 422 E Franklin St # 302, Richmond, VA 23219. Contact Mary Stuart for details: [mary-stuart.torbeck@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary-stuart.torbeck@sierraclub.org)

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### LECTURE AND FIELD TRIP

**The Hungary Creek Stream Restoration Project** restored 1750 ft. of Hungary Creek, eliminating eroded stream banks and creating a floodplain to stop further erosion. Join the SC-FOJG in checking how the project has fared in its first year. Meet at the **Meeting Room in the Tuckahoe Library, 1901 Starling Drive, Henrico, at 9 AM, Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>** for a lecture followed by a field trip to the site. Use the [“Get Involved”](#) link to register for this outing. Contact Gill Sigmon for more details ([gill.sigmon1@gmail.com](mailto:gill.sigmon1@gmail.com))



Eroded Stream Bed



New Floodplain

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**EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST---**  
**TAKE THIS CANOE AND KAYAK OUTINGS [SURVEY](#)**

We are currently trying to gauge interest in outings for the Falls of the James Group. In previous years canoe and kayak trips have been popular. Within a couple of hours' drive of Richmond there are various trips on the water that we could potentially take.



If you are interested in aquatic outings, please click the survey [HERE](#) to indicate your preferences – no commitment is required. The responses will be used to aid in organizing trips that appeal to the greatest number of members.

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**NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS FOR A COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZING THE 2017 BIG YARD SALE**

The Big Yard Sale (May 19-20) is the main fundraising event for the Falls of the James Group and our largest group activity. Typically the organizing committee holds a few evening meetings prior to the Big Yard Sale week to coordinate such activities as scheduling volunteers, advertising, providing supplies for workers, coordinating with the University of Richmond, etc. It is a great way to meet other folks, have fun, and make an impact right here in RVA. If interested please contact Andrew Peacock at [ShavonAndrew@Verizon.net](mailto:ShavonAndrew@Verizon.net) with "BYS" in the subject line.

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**KEEPING UP WITH FOJG ACTIVITIES**  
**Green Giant Awards**

To be presented at Feb. 14 Meeting



**Todd Woodson** is a professional musician and music educator who in his spare time promotes animal welfare and advocates for public parks. He has served on Richmond City Council's Monroe Park Advisory Commission and has most recently publicly objected to the felling of 20 trees in Monroe Park.

Similar concerns about Monroe Park can be found in Scott Burger's January 30 [letter](#) to City Council.



**Wyndham Price**, a dedicated environmentalist, worked for the City Parks and Recreation Department for 17 years before passing away suddenly last year. A certified Tree Steward, his environmental efforts included recycling, doggie bag and planting projects, watershed cleanups, and improving Bryan Park -- where trees are now planted in his honor.

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At the **Shiver in the River event** on January 28, the FOJG team, Steve Heinitz (left) and Scott Burger, smile before making a dash into the frigid James River! They were among the estimated 150 participants who took the plunge!



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### Meet the new officers of the Falls of the James Group:

Joe Brancoli (left), chairperson,  
Mary Crutchfield, secretary



Andrew Peacock, treasurer.

Get involved! Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the programs and activities of the Sierra Club's Falls of the James Group.

### FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Joe Brancoli**, Chairperson  
omethid@hotmail.com

**Andrew Peacock**, Treasurer  
shavonandrew@verizon.net

**Mary Crutchfield**, Secretary  
marycrutchfield@verizon.net

**Scott Burger**  
scottburger@me.com

**Steve Heinitz**  
srheinit@vcu.edu

**Adele MacLean**,  
am7m@virginia.edu

**Shavon Peacock**,  
shavonandrew@verizon.net

**Bruce Tarr**  
bruce.tarr@comcast.net

**Ralph R. White**  
ralphrwhite@aol.com

**Darryl Downing** (VA ExCom liaison)  
dtdowning@comcast.net

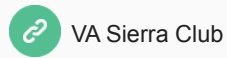
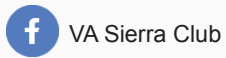
### FOJG Committee Structure

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

[gill.sigmon1@gmail.com](mailto:gill.sigmon1@gmail.com) or click  
[HERE](#) for more information.





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