

# April 2017 Newsletter

## Falls of the James Group

### Sierra Club

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## April 11, 2017 Meeting

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

### *"Strategies for Resiliency in a Changing Climate"*

**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. From his viewpoint as a paleoclimatologist, he will treat us to some new ideas, sharing studies of climate changes over the years. His environmental knowledge includes some fun as one can see in his tweets --from the environmental rapper Baba Brinkman to Bill Nye! It will be sure to be an interesting evening!



## May 9, 2017 Meeting

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

### *"Environmental Advocacy In a Hostile Political Climate"*

Mike Foreman recently retired from a 30-year career in

*leadership positions which impacted the environmental scene in Virginia. Mike's special area of interest is environmental leadership and collaborative group processes. He will challenge our group to try new approaches in our search for winning strategies for positive change.*

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## **BIG YARD SALE: MAY 12-13**

(note the change of dates)

### **Volunteer Now : Sign up [HERE](#) for Early Collecting**

The 20th Big Yard Sale (BYS), our joint project with the University of Richmond (UofR), is underway. Last year's BYS was a great success in every way: diverting discards from the landfill, having good fellowship, and generating over \$10,000 to be shared between the Falls of the James Group-Sierra Club and UR Green! This is an excellent example of the Reuse principle.

**Early Collection starts at the end of April and continues into the first week of May.** More volunteers are needed compared to previous years because UofR is increasing its emphasis in collecting student donations from the dorms. In turn, UofR expects us to maintain a regular volunteer presence during the Early Collection phase. This is a great way to get involved with the BYS because the dates and times are flexible. **Please volunteer now using the [EARLY COLLECTING link](#).**

**Please also use the [SALE WEEK link](#) to volunteer for:**

- **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>:** Sorting and Collection Day (7 AM to 8 PM)
- **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Final Sorting (9 AM to 8 PM)
- **Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Private (UofR Facility and Staff only) Pre-sale (5:30 AM to 8:30 PM)
- **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> :** Public sale (7:30 AM to noon) and Cleanup (Noon to 2 PM)

We hope you consider volunteering for this important event. You

will find it rewarding and fun.



## James River Bald Eagle Tour Sunday, April 2

Bring your binoculars to view bald eagles -- and many other birds -- from a boat on the James River. The two-hour boat tour will focus on the resident bald eagles who live near Henricus Park throughout the year. The James River is the site of an amazing comeback of bald eagle populations -- from none 40 years ago to over 260 pairs in 2016. In addition you will surely see a myriad of other birds and wildlife, a testimony to the environmental riches of the James River.



On this two-hour eagle tour with other FOJG members, you will ride aboard the *Discovery Barge II*, a 24-foot covered pontoon boat. Two tours are from 7:00–9:00am and 9:30–11:30am. Each tour can take up to 6 people. Cost is \$50 per person. Tours depart from Deep Bottom Park in Varina at 9525 Deep Bottom Rd. If interested, contact Capt. Mike Ostrander at [Mike@DiscovertheJames.com](mailto:Mike@DiscovertheJames.com) or 804-938-2350.

To view his website, go to

## LECTURE & FIELD TRIP: Saturday, April 8

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

## CAPITAL TRAIL RECREATIONAL BIKE RIDE Saturday April 15

We will set off at 10:00 from Four Mile Creek Park off Hwy. 5 for a leisurely ride on the Capital Trail. We plan to ride for an hour or so, then have lunch at Ronnie's BBQ on Hwy. 5. All levels of rider are welcome on this social event.

Please contact Andrew or Shavon Peacock if you would like to join us, at 804-320-2318 or [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net).

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## **PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH IN DC Saturday, April 29**

Join the Virginia Sierra Club in Washington as we let the administration know that climate action will never be stopped.

Bus tickets are available [here](#). They are based on first come first serve so get them ASAP to ensure your seat to DC on April 29th. Tickets are \$10/\$20. The \$20.00 tickets help lower the cost for others and will enable us to get more buses to bring more people to DC. Buses will be leaving Richmond from two locations, the VCU area and the [Park and Ride at Glenside](#). If you have any questions, you can refer to the [Virginia PCM Hub](#), [virginia-peoples-climate@googlegroups.com](mailto:virginia-peoples-climate@googlegroups.com) or direct them to [mary-stuart.torbeck@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary-stuart.torbeck@sierraclub.org).

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## **TOUR: Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center Virginia Beach Tuesday August 15, 10:00-11:00**

The Brock Environmental Center is a national and international model for green building techniques, materials, energy efficiency, water use, and landscaping as well as efficiency, beauty, and inspiration. With its energy-generating solar panels and wind turbines, geothermal wells, rain cisterns, composting toilets, rain guards, and elevation 13 feet above sea level, the Brock Environmental Center is among the most environmentally smart buildings in the world. It produces 83% more energy than it uses and is a prototype for coping with climate change in a region prone to flooding.

See the Brock Center website at <http://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/offices-operations/hampton-roads-regional-office-brock-center>

Contact Shavon Peacock at 804-320-2318 or [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net) if interested.

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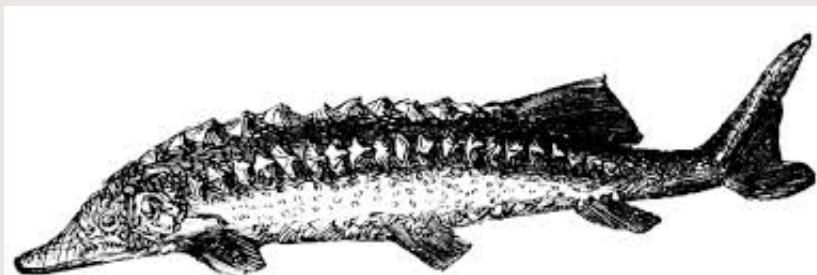
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# James River Sturgeon Tour

## Thurs., Sept. 21, 5:00–7:30

Plan ahead for FOJG's fall boat tour to see the sturgeon as they return to the James River for their fall spawning run.

Tour by "Discover the James." Cost: \$55/person; 28 places available; deadline for reservations is August 25. If interested, email Capt. Mike Ostrander at [mike@DiscovertheJames.com](mailto:mike@DiscovertheJames.com) or visit the website [www.DiscovertheJames.com](http://www.DiscovertheJames.com). (Note: if you check Mike's web page, it will say "sold out" for the September 21<sup>st</sup> tour because it is reserved for FOJG Sierra Club members!)



### BLO X

Black Light and Owls 10

May 27 - May 28

7:00 pm Sat. until 9:00 am Sun.

at VCU Rice Rivers Center

It's the tenth year of BLO! With Anne Wright and Dr. Art Evans we will document the nocturnal riches of Charles City County. We will catalog insects attracted to ultraviolet and mercury vapor lights and make regular forays into the night in search of owls. A side trip to Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery to experience the mighty frog chorus is also planned.

#### POT LUCK dinner!

Bring a dish or something to grill. Camp outside or in the LEED Platinum Education Building (bring your own gear) and enjoy the science and camaraderie of creatures of the night!

RSVP: [abwright@vcu.edu](mailto:abwright@vcu.edu)

## 2017 Spring Schedule in Brief

**April 2 -- James River Eagle Tour. (see above)**

**April 8 -- Speaker and Outing on Watershed Restoration. (see above)**

**April 11 - Meeting (above): "Strategies for Resiliency in a Changing Climate." Jeremy Hoffman, speaker**

**April 15 - Capital Trail Bike Ride (see above)**

**April 16 - Sierra Club Booth at Monument Avenue Easter Parade. To volunteer contact Joe Broncolli: [omethid@hotmail.com](mailto:omethid@hotmail.com)**

**April 22 -- Scientists' March for Science on Earth Day in DC. <https://www.marchforscience.com/> FOJG Contact – Gill Sigmon: [gilsigmon2@gmail.com](mailto:gilsigmon2@gmail.com)**

**April 22 -- RVA Earth Day in Manchester. 12-7. Volunteer [HERE](#) or contact Daryl Downing [dtdowning@comcast.net](mailto:dtdowning@comcast.net)**

**April 23 - Earth Day w/ NPR / Community Idea Stations. – 1:00-5:00 <http://ideastations.org/explore-outdoors/> Volunteer [HERE](#) or contact Daryl Downing [dtdowning@comcast.net](mailto:dtdowning@comcast.net)**

**April 26 - FOJG Advocacy Committee Meeting. 6:30. K-Town Restaurant, 9 N 4th St., Richmond. Contact Daryl [dtdowning@comcast.net](mailto:dtdowning@comcast.net)**

**April 29 -- People's Climate March. Washington, DC. Sierra Club bus-\$20. (see above) Info and bus reservations [HERE](#).**

**May 6 -- RVA Clean City Commission: Recycling Paints, Electronics, Pesticides & Shredding. 10-2, 6807 Midlothian Trnpk.**

**May 12-13--Big Yard Sale. (see above) Volunteer [HERE](#) for Sale Week. Or to volunteer Prior to Sale Week, click [HERE](#).**

**May 27-28--BIO-X. Rice River Center. contact [abwright@vcu.edu](mailto:abwright@vcu.edu) (see above)**

**June 13 -- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Save the date; details later.**

**Aug. 15 -- Tour of the Brock Environmental Center, VA Beach. (see above)**

**Sept. 21 - James River Sturgeon Tour (see above)**

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  
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**Andrew Peacock**, Treasurer  
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**Mary Crutchfield**, Secretary  
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**Scott Burger**  
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**Bruce Tarr**  
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**Ralph R. White**  
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**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, Bike/Ped. Meets 4th Wed. each month.
- **Membership Engagement Committee** comprises Membership, Programs, Outings, and Fundraising. Meets last Thursday of each month.

**New members welcome.  
Interested? Contact Gil  
Sigmon,**

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

