

May 2017 Newsletter

Falls of the James Group

Sierra Club

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Big Yard Sale

at UR's Millheiser Gym

Sat., May 13, 8:00-noon

(Fri., May 12, 6:00-8:00 for UR staff only,)

Huge, unbelievable number of items. Incredible bargains!
Bring your friends!



BUT it takes an army of volunteers to put this on. To make

it all happen, volunteers are needed every day from now until the sale itself: This week, (May 1-8) people are needed to pick up items at designated places on the UR campus where students leave their discards. (Click [HERE](#) for specific times and directions--and to sign up.)

The week before and during the BigYard Sale (May 8-13) more people are needed to sort, sell, and clean up! (Click [HERE](#) to sign up and for more info.)

Come join in: you will find it fun and rewarding--and you will see immediately that you, personally, can have an impact on preventing waste on our planet.

See more information on the [FOJG website](#).



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. We will come away with tools to act on our conviction that being an environmental activist has never been tougher than it is now—or more important.

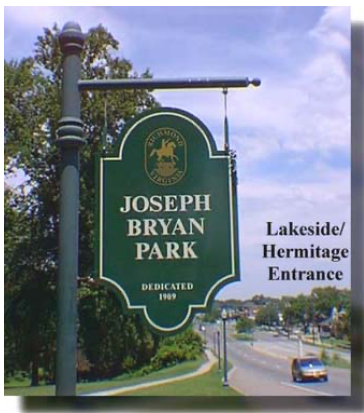
September 12 , 2017 Meeting

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia



"The Nature Conservancy's Climate Change Work in Virginia and Beyond"

Nikki Rovner, Associate State Director, External Affairs of the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, works to foster strong partnerships with government agencies and other organizations while advocating for the Conservancy's policy priorities with state and federal decision makers. She will give an overview of the Virginia Nature Conservancy and what it is doing to target climate change.



Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: Pot-Luck and Plant Exchange

**This year in Bryan Park, Shelter #3
Tuesday, June 13, 6:00 pm**

A new venue -- Bryan Park (map [HERE](#)) -- was chosen this year so all can see the memorial site for Wyn Price--trees planted near a bench (we hope will arrive in time) that FOJG contributors helped make possible.

Otherwise the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will have the same format as in past years--a pot luck supper, plant exchange and lots of camaraderie to celebrate the end of the Big Yard Sale.

So bring a dish to share, label it with its name and please state whether it is omni, vegetarian or vegan (and bring a serving spoon.) Appetizers, mains, sides, desserts all welcome. Alcohol is not allowed in the park so bring something soft to drink.

Let's continue to reduce trash from the event: bring your own plates, utensils, napkins and beverage containers.

Also, this is the time of year to bring those extra plants to trade: bring one, take one; or bring five, take five. Or just take one or more (we usually have extras). 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

It promises to be an easy evening of good food and fellowship. We encourage you to bring (or wear) the most unusual thing you found at the BYS -- let's have some early summer fun!

FUTURE OUTINGS

TOUR: Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center Virginia Beach Tues., Aug. 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.

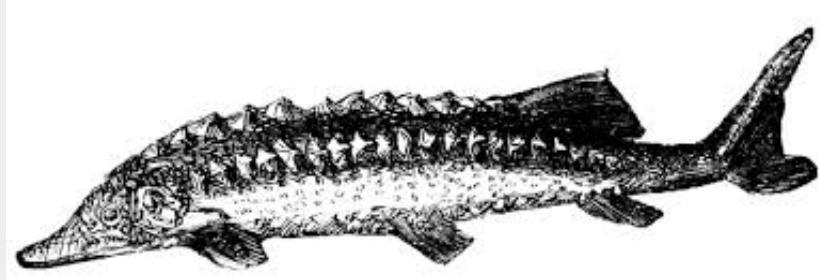
See the Brock Center website at <http://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/offices-operations/hampton-roads-regional-office-brock-center>

Contact Shavon Peacock at 804-320-2318 or shavonandrew@verizon.net if interested in joining the tour.

James River Sturgeon Tour Thurs., Sept. 21, 5:00-7:30 pm

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 or visit the website www.DiscovertheJames.com. (Note: if you check Mike's web page, it will say "sold out" for the September 21st 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

Reflections on Spring FOJG Outings

by Shavon Peacock



FOJG Cat Point Creek Kayak Trip on April 1st

History abounded on our Cat Point Creek Kayak trip: We started near Warsaw, VA with a guided tour of Menokin house ruins, the 1769 home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation. Then we launched our kayaks from nearby Menokin Landing where tobacco rolling roads still led to the landing. We paddled, despite a brisk cold wind and whitecaps, across Menokin Bay and upriver into the narrower channel of the Cat Point Creek. Here serviceberry trees were blooming, trees were just beginning to leaf out, and a bald eagle scooped up a small fish from the water — it was a scene that the native Americans or John Smith might have seen! Our thanks to the Friends of the Rappahannock River guides, the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge which manages this outstanding wildlife habitat, and our Menokin Foundation guide, all of whom make this trip possible.

Bike Ride On the Capital Trail on April 15th

Six of us from the FOJG enjoyed a 17-mile loop bike ride from the Four Mile Creek

parking area, along the Capital Trail and through the quiet, tree-lined country roads of the Fort Harrison complex. Halfway through our trip, we stopped along Route 5 and enjoyed al fresco dining at Ronnie's BBQ. The beautiful spring day and easy, flat terrain made for a terrific outing. Join us for our next bike ride!



.At the Menikin House ruins, participants who were about to embark on the Cat Point Creek kayak trip toured the 18th century home of Lighthouse Harry Lee.

2017 Schedule in Brief

May 6 -- RVA Clean City Commission will accept old paint, electronics, pesticides & shredding. 10:00-2:00, 6807 Midlothian TrnPk.

May 9 -- Meeting 7:00. Speaker Mike Foreman at Science Museum. (see above)

May 10 -- "Blow the Whistle On Dominion-Second Act" Demonstration – 10:45-12:45, Richmond Convention Center, <http://bit.ly/2nNm99w> State Chapter Lead - [Zachary Jarjoura](#)

May 12-13 -- Big Yard Sale at UR. (see above) Volunteer [HERE](#) for Sale Week. Or to volunteer for the Early Collecting Week, prior to Sale Week, click [HERE](#).

May 18 -- Richmond Green Drinks – Third Thursday of the month. Sierra Club's VA Chapter is hosting May Green Drinks. See info on the calendar at <http://www.sierraclub.org/virginia>

May 27-28 -- BIO-X. Rice River Center. contact abwright@vcu.edu (see above)

June 13 -- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Bryan Park Shelter #3, 6:00. (see above)

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

Sept. 12 -- Meeting 7:00. Speaker Nikki Rovner at Science Museum. (see above)

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

Check out the calendar of the Virginia Club Chapter of Sierra Club at <http://www.sierraclub.org/virginia> for outings around the state.

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

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FOJG Committee Structure

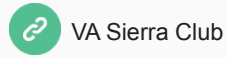
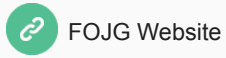
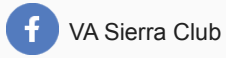
- **Communications Committee** comprises Enews, Website, Publicity and Social Media.
- **Conservation & Advocacy Committee** comprises Conservation, Legislative/Political, Pollinators, Bike/Ped. Meets 4th Wed. each month.
- **Membership Engagement Committee** comprises Membership, Programs, Outings, and Fundraising. Meets last Thursday of each month.

New members welcome.

Interested? Contact Gil

Sigmon,

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



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