

September 2017 Newsletter

Falls of the James Group

Sierra Club

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**FOJG meetings (below) -- with outstanding speakers -
- are free and open to the public!**



September 12, 2017

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 Nature Conservancy*, works to foster strong partnerships with government agencies and other organizations. She will give an overview of the Virginia Nature Conservancy and its role in combatting climate change-- with specific examples of its work in this state.

October 10, 2017

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"What We Can Learn from



Germany's Transition to Renewable Energy"

Nora Löhle is Program Director of Energy and Environment at Heinrich Böll Stiftung, a German company which fosters renewable energy on both sides of the Atlantic. She comes with new ideas, such as the "just transition" model used to close coal mines in Germany, and the role of digitalization in moving from fossil fuel to clean energy. She will challenge us to consider similar programs that might be adopted in the U.S.



November 14, 2017

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"Let's Talk Politics"

Harrison Wallace, Policy Coordinator for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, describes his presentation:

"We will start with an overview of CCAN's overall mission and our history in Virginia. Then we'll talk about the outcome of the election and its effect on climate policy in Virginia over the next couple of years. Finally, we'll dive deeper into one of Virginia's most progressive clean energy decisions of this decade: Executive Directive 11, which will eventually place a cap on our carbon emissions from power plants. We'll discuss the policy and how grassroots action can help us make the cap as strong and just as possible."

January 9, 2018

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia



"Can We Support Renewable Energy Credits?"

William L. "Bill" Murray, *Vice President of State & Electric Public Policy at Dominion Energy will explain renewable energy credits as offered by Dominion Energy and other entities.*

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

**September Raise
Let's Do It!**

Wed., Sept.13 (6:00 am) --
Sun., Sept.17 (6:00 pm)

DONATE [HERE!](#)

Here's your chance to contribute to the tax-free Falls of the James Group's Sierra Club Foundation. These funds will be used only to help support local education and conservation programs, such as the RVA Environmental Film Festival and watershed restoration. The goal is to raise \$3000 within the six-day "September Raise".

Whether you're an Early Bird or a Procrastinator, every donation is appreciated. (We suggest contributions of \$25 or more). **All donations can be made by credit card or check.** The FOJG September Raise is being assisted by national Sierra Club professionals, so trust that your online tax deductible donation will be deposited directly and safely into the Falls of the James Group's Foundation account. You will receive a receipt by email. So please mark your calendar. Help FOJG keep central Virginia's environment more sustainable. Thanks for your generosity.

Procrastinators' Party

Sun., Sept. 17, 4 pm to 7 pm
5314 Dorchester Road, RVA 23225

(The final push: a gathering to share the giving spirit.)

A lawn chair and a credit card or check book are all that is required. We'll sit out in the shade of the brick colonial and feast on whatever comes our way. Drinks provided, but you may also choose to BYOD or food.

There is nothing like a tax-free donation to get you jumpin'. Bring your bicycle for the added pleasure of a celebratory zing around Westover Hills neighborhood.

RSVP tamsmith47@gmail.com. 804 562 2500

James River Sturgeon Tour Filled; Other September Dates Available

FOJG's fall sturgeon tour on the James River, scheduled for Sept 21, is filled up! However, similar September tours to watch the sturgeon as they return to the James River for their fall spawning are still available from "Discover the James" tours. You may sign up with Capt. Mike Ostrander for either of two other Thursday evenings in September--Sept 14 or 28. Cost: \$55/person; If interested, email Capt. Mike Ostrander at mike@DiscovertheJames.com or visit the website www.DiscovertheJames.com.



from <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sturgeon.jpg>

COMING IN OCTOBER:

Recreational Bike Ride on the VA Capital Trail



image by Steren

Saturday, October 7. 10:00 am

Depart Charles City Grill (adjacent to the Capital Trail) at 10:00 am. Ride Capital Trail for about 90 minutes. Group lunch at Charles City Grill. Contact Andrew Peacock at ShavonAndrew@verizon.net.

LOOKING AHEAD:

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CALL FOR INTERESTED PARTIES TO SERVE ON 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

All members of the Falls of the James Group of the Sierra Club are invited to consider running for a place on our nine-member Executive Committee. Four spaces need to be filled by January 2018. Elections will be held this coming December.

We seek dedicated persons as nominees who can meet the first Wednesday evening (6:30-8:30 p.m.) of each month to plan the direction and set policy and priorities for the Group.

We ask that anyone interested please join us this Fall at one of our ExCom meetings at 6:30 pm on September 6, October 4, or November 1 at the Virginia

State Chapter's office downtown, so that you can see what we are about.

Huzzah!

For more information, contact Joe Brancoli, ExCom Chairman, at omethid@hotmail.com or 804-502-9502. Thank you.

LOOKING BACK: 2017 SUMMER RETREAT

On August 5, FOJG's Executive Committee held their annual retreat at the Rice Center in Charles City County. Led by Corrina Beale, VA Sierra Club's Legislative & Political Director, the agenda included reports and evaluations of FOJG's committee structure that had been established last year.

In addition, Ben Weiner, VA Sierra Club's Communications Assistant, introduced new software available to local clubs, from the Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club.



LOOKING BACK: 2017 SUMMER PICNIC

Celebrating the end of the Big Yard Sale, the June picnic at Bryan Park included the annual pot luck dinner and plant exchange.



Also, the picnic marked the unveiling of a bench and river birch trees, installed in Bryan Park as a memorial to FOJG member Wyn Price.

LOOKING BACK -- AND AHEAD: GRANTS AWARDED by FOJG

The Falls of the James Group of the Sierra Club periodically awards grants to groups participating in efforts to protect the environment. To find more information about the grants process, see the [Grant Guidelines](#) and [Grant Application Form](#) on the FOJG website.

Groups that have received a grant in the past year are

Virginia Farmers Market Association
United Parents Against Lead
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
Enrichmond Foundation (for the Tree Lab)



Enrichmond TreeLab

Grant recipients from former years include the Richmond Hostel, RVA Clean Sweep, Partnership for Smarter Growth, and the Environmental Film Festival.

All members of FOJG can be proud that our efforts at the Big Yard Sale, the September Raise and, in past years, the Holiday Auction, allow us to financially support these wonderful local organizations.

The Grants subcommittee currently is comprised of Glen Besa, Joe Brancoli and Adele Maclean.

2017 Sept. Schedule in Brief

For events scheduled by VA Sierra Club and other local groups, see the Calendar at <http://www.sierraclub.org/virginia>.

Sept. 6 - Clean Water Forum 12:30-3:00. National Theater, Richmond. Info [HERE](#).

Sept. 9 - National Drive Electric Week Event (electric vehicles) in Richmond (Sept. 9), Crozet (Sept.10), Hopewell (Sept.11) More information [HERE](#).

Sept.12 - FOJG Meeting (above): "The Nature Conservancy's Climate Change Work in VA and Beyond" Nikki Rovner, speaker.

Sept.13-Sept. 17 - September Raise Fundraiser by FOJG. (See above.)

Sept. 21 - 5:30 RVA Green Drinks Monthly (4th Thurs.) informal gathering with others interested in the environment. Info on Calendar [HERE](#).

Sept. 22-23 [VCN Virginia Environmental Assembly](#). Fredericksburg. Info and registration on link above.

Sept. 23 [Richmond Recycle Day](#) 10-2:00. 6807 Midlothian Trnpg. For shredding; recycling pesticides, herbicides, oil-based paints.

Sept. 29-Oct.1 Sierra Club VA Chapter Annual Gathering – at Twin Lakes State Park. Register at www.sierraclub.org/virginia. For more info,

contact Eileen Levandoski, eileen.levandoski@sierraclub.org, (757) 277-8537.

Oct.7 - Recreational Bike Ride on Capital Trail (see above).

Oct.10 - FOJG Meeting (above) "What We Can Learn from Germany's Transition to Renewable Energy" Nora Lohle, speaker.

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

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