

**December 2017
Newsletter
Falls of the James Group
Sierra Club**



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Sign Up Now:

FOJG HOLIDAY DINNER
TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 7:30



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Robins Room
\$39

Join the Falls of the James Group for fun, friendship and a festive evening together with fellow Sierra Club members. Price includes complete meal, tax, tip, and a ticket to the GardenFest of Lights (which may be used any night during the holiday season.) Also enjoy the gift shop, conservatory, library, model trains and caroling.

Buffet dinner will include:

Season Vintner's Salad
Meriwether's Shrimp & Grits
Cinnamon Chipotle Roasted Pork Tenderloin
Spinach & Phyllo Casserole
Roasted Vegetables
Sweet Potato Mash
Bread Basket
Seasonal Fruit Cobbler
Iced Tea & Coffee

Payment must be made in advance. Only 50 reservations will be accepted, so make your check out to "FOJG Sierra Club" now. (No electronic payment method available.)

Please send with your name and guests' names to

Andrew Peacock
7669 Rockfalls Drive
Richmond, VA 23225



Robins Room during GardenFest

Vote NOW for new members of the 2018 Falls of the James Group Executive Committee

Four candidates have accepted the bid to fill the four positions available on the 2018 Executive Committee (ExCom). The Nominating Committee is proud to present Glen Besa, Steve Carter-Lovejoy, Bruce Tarr, and Steve Yarus. All have exceptional experience with environmental issues. Pictures and brief bios are below.

You may vote right now by clicking [HERE](#) for your online ballot. Just fill it out, write your name and hit "submit." We will not be sending paper ballots or separate email ballots.



Glen Besa is the recently retired director of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter. In his twenty years with the Sierra Club, he worked on issues as diverse as forest protection and toxics, coal ash and solar farms; he continues these efforts in his retirement. Glen has a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the U. of Maryland-Baltimore County and a law degree from the U. of Baltimore.



Steve Carter-Lovejoy A long-time Sierra Club member, Steve spent 19 years working as a conservation biologist for the state and 10 years as a public librarian. Now retired, Steve serves on the FOJG Advocacy Committee and is active in the VA Chapter of the Sierra Club where he was recognized in September 2017 for Outstanding Achievement.



Bruce Tarr has been a member of the Falls of the James Group since 1990 and has served several terms on the Falls of the James Group's Executive Committee. He also is one of the core volunteers researching, recovering, and promoting the historic, overgrown Evergreen and East End Cemeteries.



Steve Yarus, a retired professional engineer, has been a member of the Club for five years. He has worked on the Big Yard Sale, the Environmental Film Festival, and participated in the DC Climate March last May. His reason for accepting the nomination: "The more active I can be in the Sierra Club, the better I can protect my grandchildren and civilization from global warming."

Next Meeting:



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.

At the end of his presentation, Bill Murray will address other topics of interest to the membership. Please write down other issues you would like him to discuss and send to Gill at gill.sigmon1@gmail.com.



Upcoming Meeting Spring, 2018

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"Outdoor Travel Experiences"

by you, our members

Have you particularly enjoyed an outdoor experience you'd be willing to share with the club at one of our General Meetings? We're considering a future program where, in lieu of the usual speaker, you can share your adventures (trip or outing). Contact Gil, at gill.sigmon1@gmail.com for more information.

RVA Environmental Film Festival February 5-12, 2018

The Eighth Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival will take place at locations across the city including the [University of Richmond](#), [VCU](#), public libraries, The [Visual Arts Center](#), [The Byrd Theatre](#) and [The Science Museum of Virginia](#).

As in the past, the week long event will showcase local and national films that raise awareness of environmental issues relevant to the Richmond region, our nation, and our planet.

This year, the [Enrichmond Foundation](#), the [Sierra Club - Falls of the James Group](#), the [Capital Region Land Conservancy](#) and [Viridiant](#) will partner to present a fabulous, still free, EFF.

Honoring Sierra Club workers at the November Meeting:



Celebrating victory at the polls, Field Director Will Sullivan and Field Organizer Amy Pieti are recognized for their hard work on the 2017 election.

September Raise Report

The 2017 September Raise netted \$775 in donations from 13 FOJG donors. These contributions will be directed to activities such as the RVA Environmental Film Festival or education about the importance of watershed restoration or green energy. Contributions may still be made to this tax exempt fund by going to the FOJG website www.sierraclub.org/virginia/falls-

[james](#) and pressing the DONATE button. Thank you for participating before December 31, 2017.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM FOJG

The Falls of the James Group of the Sierra Club periodically awards grants to groups participating in efforts to protect the environment, and we are accepting grant applications at this time. Four grants of \$1,000 each were awarded in the past year.

To find more information about the grants process (applications must be received by February 15), see the [Grant Guidelines](#) and [Grant Application Form](#) on the FOJG website.

2017 Dec. Schedule in Brief

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

Dec. 1-31 - Fill out and submit ballot for new FOJG Executive Committee members. Link and information above.

Sat. Dec. 2 - VA Conservation Network's General Assembly Preview. 8:30-12:30. The Frontier Project, East Coast Freight Lines Bldg., 3005 W Marshall St., Richmond. Registration requested. Details [HERE](#).

Sat. Dec. 2 - Water is Life Rally & Concert. 1:00-4:30. Capital Square, Richmond. Details [HERE](#).

Mon. Dec. 4 - Dominion's Coal Ash Assessment Presentation to the State Water Commission. 10:00-12:00. State Capitol. House Rm.1
Details [HERE](#).

Mon. Dec. 4 - Dominion: Move Your Ash Rally! 12:15-1:00.
Nina F. Abady Festival Park, 449 N 7th St, Richmond.
Details [HERE](#).

Wed.-Thurs. Dec. 6-7 - VA State Water Control Board Meeting on Mountain Valley Pipeline. 9:00-6:00. Trinity Family Life Center, 3601 Dill Rd., Richmond. Details [HERE](#).

Tues. Dec. 12 - FOJG Holiday Dinner. 7:30. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Details above.

Wed. Dec. 13 - Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance's Networking Event and Annual Meeting. 5:30-7:00. McguireWoods Consulting, 800 E Canal St, Richmond. Details [HERE](#).

Wed. Dec. 13 - Talk by Nancy MacLean. Author of *Democracy in Chains, The Deep History of the Radical Right*. 7:00-9:00 pm. VCU Cabell Library, 901 Park Ave, Richmond Details [HERE](#).

Get involved! To learn more about the programs and activities of the Sierra Club's Falls of the James Group visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/falls-james>.

FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Mary Crutchfield, Secretary
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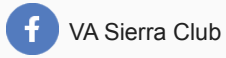
Ralph R. White
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Daryl Downing (VA ExCom liaison)
dtdowning@comcast.net

FOJG Committee Structure

- **Communications Committee** comprises Enews, Website, Publicity and Social Media.
- **Conservation & Advocacy Committee** comprises Conservation, Legislative/Political, 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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