

February 2018 Newsletter

Falls of the James Group

Sierra Club

Recommended: [View this in your browser.](#)



FOJG meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Science Museum -- but in a different room. Look for directions as you enter the main doors. Meetings are free and open to the public!



February 13. 2018

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"Dominion Energy's Regulations in Virginia"

Vivian Thomson will talk about and read from her 2017 book, *Climate of Capitulation* a book about Dominion's influence on state government and regulations. An expert in environmental policy, Vivian Thomson was Professor in the Departments of Environmental Sciences and Politics at UVA, where she directed the Environmental Thought and Practice BA Program. Thompson will have her book available (\$25, cash or check only) for sale and signing after the meeting.

At the winter meetings, bluebird and chickadee birdhouses will be available. Members Andrew Peacock, Steve Yarus, and Bob Campbell crafted these from long-lasting cedar, and they are accepting a \$12.50 donation for the chickadee birdhouses and \$15 for the bluebird houses, which



will cover the cost of materials.



March 13, 2018

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"New Possibilities for RVA"

Stewart Schwartz, a Richmonder, is founder and director of Coalition for Smarter Growth, which addresses issues of land use, transportation, urban design, housing, and the environment. An attorney, Schwartz has served with the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the Land Trust Alliance, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other groups. See



April 10, 2018

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"Puerto Rico: Paradise in Peril"

Rex and Kathy Springston and Rosita Cruz will bring us up to date on the situation in Puerto Rico with a slide and video program that will record the situation since hurricane Maria. Rex Springston, now retired, covered environmental issues for the *Times Dispatch* and, with his wife, visited the island before and after the hurricane. Rosita Cruz will tell about her experience during the storm and during a recent visit to Puerto Rico.



May 8, 2018

7:00 Science Museum of Virginia

"Outdoor Travel Experiences"
by you, our members

Members will share slides and recent travel experiences.

Anyone interested in participating may contact Gill Sigmon at gill.sigmon1@gmail.com

RVA Environmental Film Festival

Monday, Feb. 5 - Sunday, Feb. 18

The RVA Environmental Film Festival is bigger and better than ever! Films will be shown in venues throughout the city on most days from Monday, February 5 through Sunday, February 18. Supported by many groups, including the Falls of the James Group of the Sierra Club, all the films are free to the public. The schedule is below.

For an online schedule, including links to trailers for the films, see

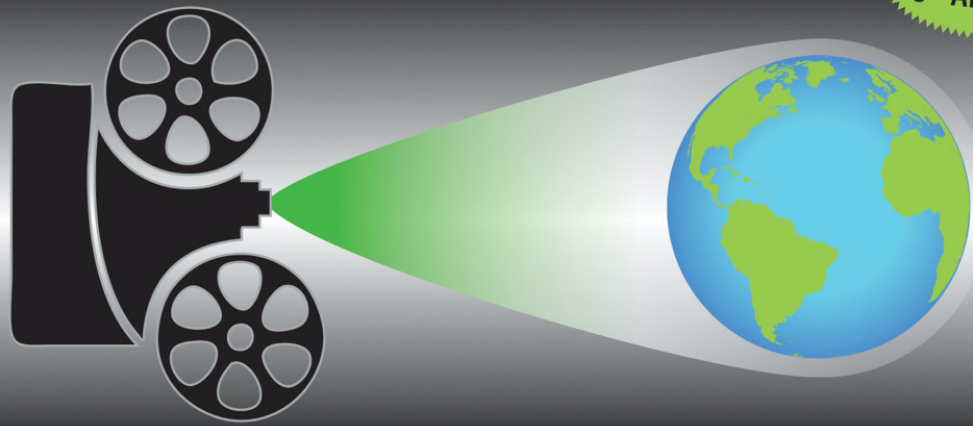
<https://rvaeff.org/2018-schedule>

RVA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

February 5 through February 18, 2018

Local Film Contest Award presentation Sunday Feb. 11

8th ANNUAL



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CHECK WEBSITE FOR
DATES, TIMES & VENUES

RVAEFF.org



presenters

- CAPITAL REGION LAND CONSERVANCY
- CCAN CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
- SIERRA CLUB FOUNDED 1892
- enrichmond
- viridiant

sponsors

- RICHMOND Audubon Society
- outdoors BLUE RIDGE MAGAZINE
- City of Richmond RVAgreen
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- iPhotoBirds Nature Photography by Bob Schamerhorn
- CCPL CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- UptownColor
- vegan action
- Environmental Almanac of Virginia, 2nd edition
- Rice Rivers Center VCU
- SUGAR & TWINE BAKESHOP AND COFFEE
- WHOLE FOODS MARKET
- Drive Electric RVA
- THE BYRD THEATRE
- RICHMOND VIRGINIA
- Richmond Window Corp.
- VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND
- 100 YEARS
- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS OF VIRGINIA
- Museum of Virginia
- nope natural organic process enterprises
- VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS
- UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
- ELMWOOD THOMPSON'S Local Market
- Virginia Green
- I 88.9 WCVB
- Science MATTERS



2018 RVA EFF Schedule at-a-Glance

Mon., Feb. 5, 6:30 to 8:00 PM at Science Museum of Virginia "Dome"
Films: **"A Ghost in the Makin"** & **"America Wild:The National Parks Adventure"**
Speaker: Andrea DeKoter, Chief Interpreter, Nat'l Battlefield Park, Richmond, VA

Tues., Feb 6, 3:30 to 5:30 PM at VCU Student Commons Theatre
Film: **"Jane"** the life of Jane Goodall, plus short film.

Tues., Feb 6, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Richmond Main Library on E Franklin St.
Films: **"For the Birds"** & **"Inhabit (the art of Permaculture)"**

Wed., Feb. 7, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the N Courthouse Rd. Library, Chesterfield Co.
Films: **"A Blooming Business"** & **"Local Flowers, Local Farmers, A Growing American Movement"** • Speaker: Lisa Ziegler, owner of The Gardener's Workshop & author

Thurs., Feb 8, 5:00 to 5:55 PM tabling & **pizza reception** • **Program: 6:00 to 8:00 PM**, Ukrop Auditorium, University of Richmond. Film: **"Here's to Flint"**
Panel Discussion: Queen Zakia Shabazz - United Parents Against Lead; Mary Finley Brook - Environmental Justice Council for VA; Rob Andrejewski - VA Tech researcher, Panel Moderator.

Fri., Feb 9, 6:00 PM reception • **Program 7:00 to 9:00 PM**, WCVE Studio, Science Matters, Sesame Street, N Chesterfield
Films: **"RARE"** & **"Person of the Forest"** • Speakers: National Geographic Videophotographers Melissa Lesh & Trevor Frost, with Robert Rodriguez-Suro.

Sat., Feb 10, 10:00 am to 6:30 PM, Byrd Theatre in Richmond's Carytown
Films: **"The Lorax; Meet the Real Wolf"**, **"My Haggan Dream"**, **"The Penguin Counters"**, **"The Age of Consequences"**, **"Chasing Coral"**, **"Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock"**, **"Adaptation"**, **"Tidewater"** • Speakers: Alize Carrere - Director of Adaption, Anne Phillips - Tidewater actor, & Admiral ret., Kevin Slates - actor in Tidewater

Sun., Feb. 11, 1:30 pm to 6:30 PM, Byrd Theatre in Richmond's Carytown
Films: **"In Pursuit of Silence"**, **RVA EFF Film Contest Award** presented by by Scott Burger - President of RVA EFF, **short film entry showings** & **"Jane"** the life of Jane Goodall

Mon., Feb. 12, 6:30 to 9:30 PM, Grace Street Theatre, VCU
Films: **Submitted Films** • Speaker: Melissa Lesh



Thurs., Feb. 15, 6:30 to 9:30 PM, Grace Street Theatre, VCU
Films: **"The Nuclear Waste Problem"** & **"The New Fire"**
Speakers: Director David Schumacher, and Sama Bilbao y Leon - Dir. Of VCU Nuclear Eng. Prog.

Sun., Feb. 18, 1:30 to 4:00 PM, Byrd Theatre in Richmond's Carytown
Film: **"Happening: A Green Energy Revolution"** • **12:30 to 1:30 PM Electric Vehicle display** • Panel: Solar United Neighbors of VA, moderator Aaron Sutch.

**Electric Vehicles
at the RVA Environmental Film Festival
Sunday, Feb.18, 12-1:30 pm**

For the third year in a row, electric vehicles will be parked in front of the Byrd Theater in support of the RVA Environmental Film Festival. The film *Happening: A Clean Energy Future* will be screened at the Byrd at 1:30. In addition, there will be a debut of two full-scale prototypes of the EV Experience educational exhibits.

Activities of FOJG Members: Volunteering in the Bellemeade Community



by Shavon Peacock

Saturday morning, January 20, started out chilly but warmed up to beautiful sweater-weather as we participated in the Bellemeade Community Workday. The clean-up ended with good fellowship and pizza—and a promise to do it again!

The Falls of the James Group Sierra Club (FOJG) volunteers worked alongside community members—including kids--at the Bellemeade Community Center and Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School in south Richmond. We removed invasive plants and vines from trees, cleaned up a pollinator garden, and helped maintain the creek and watershed.

Participating groups included Groundwork RVA high school students, middle school Green Team Students, Boy Scouts, RES.US, and Richmond Tree Stewards. Bob Argabright, the Groundwork RVA Board Chair, along with Daryl Downing, Vice-Chair of the State Chapter of the Sierra Club and FOJG advocacy committee chair, organized this event.

Groundwork RVA works with Richmond high school students to transform blighted and neglected open spaces into public assets, enhance the health of the James River, and maintain Richmond parks and schools in cooperation with the City of Richmond. Groundwork RVA students also work in conjunction with the U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Groundwork USA, Inc.

Bellemeade Community Center and Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary are two of twelve targeted sites by Groundwork RVA. Future plans for the Bellemeade Community Center include a trail, further watershed work, and expansion of a community bicycle repair shop. At the bike shop local children can learn about bicycle maintenance and have their bikes repaired in exchange for helping with community activities.

Sierra Club volunteers will be needed for future workdays in March through May, so stay tuned. Next workday is March 3. Hope to see you there!

FOJG Workday in Bellemeade w/ Groundwork RVA

Sat. March 3, 9:00 am – noon

Bellemeade Community Center

1800 Lynhaven Ave, Richmond 23224

Sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ba8ac29a46-bellemeade1>

Spring 2018 Paddling for the Active Sierran

by Shavon Peacock

Membership Engagement Committee Member

A FOJG Sierra Club Dragon Run Kayak Trip is tentatively being planned for April 21 or April 28 in coordination with Friends of Dragon Run. Dragon Run is a breathtakingly beautiful, very narrow, winding waterway in the middle Peninsula lined with cypress trees, beaver dams and deep swamps that is assessable for only about a month a year. **Both tentative dates are currently filled to the maximum of 12 people per trip, so if interested, members can be put on a waiting list. These trips are run by Friends of Dragon Run.**

Contact Shavon Peacock at shavonandrew@verizon.net or at 804-320-2318 to sign up and receive further updates on this trip. See the Friends of Dragon Run website for more information about this jewel of Virginia. <https://www.dragonrun.org/>

**APPLICATIONS for FOJG GRANTS
DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2018**

The Falls of the James Group of the Sierra Club periodically awards grants to groups participating in efforts to protect the environment. Grant applications are being accepted now until February 15, 2018. Four grants of \$1,000 each were awarded in 2017.

To find more information about the grants process, see the [Grant Guidelines](#) and [Grant Application Form](#) on the FOJG website.

Calendar in Brief: Green Activities in RVA February, 2018

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

General Assembly 2018. In session now through March 10.

Throughout the session, the Virginia Conservation Network maintains an updated conservation bill tracker online. To view the updated list of VCN positions, visit vcnva.org/bill-tracker.

The Virginia General Assembly maintains a website where citizens can follow any bill's progress by using the "Search Legislation" entry box at viriniageneralassembly.gov

Mon. Feb.5 through Sun. Feb.18 -- Environmental Film Festival (see above)

Tues. Feb.13 -- FOJG Meeting. *Vivian Thomson talk and book-signing. 7:00.* (see above)

Thurs. Feb.15 -- [Richmond Green Drinks](#). 5:30-7:30.
Stone Brewing, 4300 Williamsburg Ave, Richmond 23231

Thurs. Feb 15 -- Final day for Grant Applications to be submitted. (see above)

Sun. Feb.18 -- 12:00-1:30. Electric vehicles will be parked in front of the Byrd Theater to coordinate with RVA Environmental Film Festival. (see above)

Wed. Feb. 21 -- [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\) Public Hearing on Offshore Drilling](#). 3:00-7:00. Sheraton Richmond Airport, 4700 S Laburnum Ave, Richmond 23231. Rally to protect our coast.

The newly released draft of the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil & Gas Leasing Program will open Virginia and the Atlantic coast to offshore drilling. Visit <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Learn/> to submit a comment to oppose offshore drilling! Background info may be found at <https://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/offshore-drilling>).

Sat. Mar.3 - FOJG Workday at Bellemeade. 9:00-noon. (see above)

Get involved! Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Sierra Club's Falls of

**2018
FOJG EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

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Daryl Downing (FOJG liaison to
and vice-chair of VA Sierra Club)
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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 Gill
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