



SIERRA CLUB
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

FALLS OF THE JAMES GROUP

FOJG October 2018 Newsletter

**Outstanding speakers are featured at monthly meetings
at the Science Museum of VA.
All are free and open to the public.**

**Bring your old batteries (all kinds) and printer cartridges.
We'll recycle what your recycler won't!**

Harrison Wallace

Tues. Oct. 9, 7:00

Let's Talk Politics

Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network in Virginia, Harrison Wallace manages CCAN's grassroots campaigns around the Commonwealth and advocates for strong climate policy. Seeing climate change as a moral issue, he works on keeping our elected leaders knowledgeable and accountable. Although he was unable to address FOJG last year, he closely follows the political scene and will be able to update us on current trends and CCAN's efforts in combating climate change.



Harrison Wallace

Bob Schamerhorn

Tues. Nov. 13, 7:00

Attracting Birds With Water

Bob Schamerhorn is a professional nature photographer whose images of nature have won many awards and appeared in numerous publications. His frequent talks have gotten enthusiastic reviews, and his website www.iphotobirds.com is a must for all bird-lovers to explore. The multimedia program he will present for FOJG will include photographs,



Bob Schamerhorn

video clips and birdsongs with the message that water can attract birds to back yard environments. Bob will bring cards and other items (view at his [iPhotoBirds Store](#)) that may be purchased at the meeting.

**Gustavo Angeles
& Alexis Szepesy**

Tues. Jan. 8, 2019, 7:00

Environmental Justice

Both presenters work with the Virginia Sierra Club Chapter: Gustavo, as Environmental Justice Program Coordinator, and Alexis as an Environmental Justice Chairperson. They will explain what Environmental Justice encompasses by providing examples of issues in our area. Their successful efforts have included integrating non-traditional members and conducting local campaigns to further their EJ goals.



*Gustavo Angeles
& Alexis Szepesy*

**RVA Solar Home Tour
Sat. & Sun. October 6-7**

Interested in solar homes? This event is a perfect tour for you! Richmond solar home owners will be at their residences on Saturday or Sunday, October 6-7, to talk to folks, answer questions, and give some experienced insights to those who come by. Several Falls of the James Group members who are solar home owners are among the enthusiastic hosts. Executive Committee member Glen Besa has been active in planning the event with Aaron Sutch who is the Virginia lead for Solar United Neighbors.

More information, including times, places and sign-up, can be found at the links below. Questions? Contact Glen Besa at glenbesa@gmail.com. Greater Richmond Tour and sign-up: <https://secure.everyaction.com/KMPI-nkLxEsc8TwbXXjnxw2>

OUTINGS:

Join the Dragon Run Kayak Trip Saturday, November 3, 2018



Photo by Shavon Peacock taken during the spring 2018 Dragon Run trip.

by Eileen Tarr

Falls of the James Group members are invited to join the Friends of Dragon Run (FODR) for an escorted fall kayak trip on Dragon Run. A study of over 200 rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed identified Dragon Run as the most ecologically significant habitat in Virginia and the second most in the entire bay watershed.

Five spaces are reserved for FOJG on the Saturday, November 3rd trip. For each paddler, FODR will provide a kayak, paddle, mandatory life vest, tie down for glasses, and a radio so that you can hear the guide's comments about Dragon Run, the flora, and fauna that you will see during your paddle. FODR requests a donation of \$50 per person, which may be paid on the day of trip or in advance on the website <https://www.dragonrun.org/product-page/paddling-donation>.

The FODR team will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the lower end of the Food Lion parking lot on Route 17 in Saluda, but a meeting point for a carpool from Richmond could be arranged. We should be on the water about 3 hours, ending around 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. If the trip is cancelled due to bad weather, you will be notified at the phone number you provide when you register. More details about the trip and the area itself can be found at www.dragonrun.org. To sign up, email Eileen Tarr at ejt90@comcast.net.

National Wildlife Refuge Bioblitz: Highlights of Sept. 29 Trip

by Nancy Morgan Patterson

It's amazing what all you notice when you attempt to survey plants, birds, and insects (and you have the help of a herpetologist, a birding guide, and a horticulturist).

Shavon Peacock, and Nancy and Rick Patterson represented the Falls of the James Group when they visited the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Warsaw, Virginia for a 4 hour bioblitz. A bioblitz is period of biological surveying which records living species within a designated area. The September 29th informal blitz was the first on this newly acquired property, and its purpose was to identify life to be protected and that which should be contained, such as invasive species.

Exciting finds included a spotted salamander, green tree frogs, an Eastern Black Rat snake with blue eyes due to molting, a fishing spider, so named because its huge size enables it to capture fish, and a marble spider with a bulbous lemon-yellow abdomen. A surprise bonus was a juvenile rehabilitated green heron and a 3 legged box turtle reintroduced to the wild on the wetlands portion of the refuge.



Marble Spider



Spotted Salamander

FOJG Holiday Dinner

Tues. Dec. 11, 6:00-9:00

Max's Positive Vibe Café

2825 Hathaway Rd. Richmond, VA 23225

Join us for appetizers and socializing from 6:00-7:00 and a buffet dinner from 7:00-9:00 on December 11 at FOJG's annual holiday dinner. Max's Positive Vibe Café, known for employing and training folks with disabilities, will feature the following menu, although special diets can be accommodated with advance notice.



Southern Style Pimento Cheese / Assorted Crackers
Fresh Vegetables with Blue Cheese and Ranch Dips
Spinach Lasagna
Chicken Marsala with Herbed Rice
Assorted Grilled Winter Vegetables
Caesar Salad
Chocolate Cinnamon Bread Pudding
Iced Tea and Soda

The cost of appetizers and dinner for Sierra Club members will be \$25; for non-Sierran members \$35. Cocktails/beer/wine can be purchased at a cash bar.

Please send checks made out to "FOJG Sierra Club" to Andrew Peacock, treasurer of FOJG, at 7669 Rockfalls Dr. Richmond, VA 23225. Questions? Contact Shavon Peacock at shavonandrew@verizon.net

Not a Sierra Club member yet? New member rate is just \$15! Join [HERE](#)

Executive Committee Openings

A notice from Joe Brancoli, Chairman

Greetings to all Falls of the James Group members!

Any member who wishes to may run for a two year term on our nine-member Executive Committee, which meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month from September through June. Interested parties should contact either Bruce Tarr, bruce.tarr@comcast.net Steve Carter-Lovejoy, scarterlovejoy53@msn.com or Joe Brancoli omethid@hotmail.com

If you are considering this position, you are welcome to attend our meeting on November 7 to see what it is like. We would love to see you!

FOJG Grants Available

The Sierra Club Falls of the James Group periodically awards grants to worthy organizations. Grant requests are accepted each year from September 1 through February 15. For more information about this process as well as the needed application forms, please see our online Guidelines and Application. ([Word Document](#) or [PDF](#)).

**ELECTION DAY
TUES., NOVEMBER 6
BE SURE TO VOTE!**

CALENDAR IN BRIEF

For more activities in
Falls of the James Group area, see
<https://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/falls-james>

Sat. Oct. 6 & Sun. Oct. 7. National Solar Tour – (see above)

Sat. Oct. 6, 9:00-12:00. [Bellemeade Community Workday](#)

Bellemeade Community Center, 1800 Lynhaven Ave, Richmond, VA 23224
Come help remove invasive plants and general cleanup near Oak Grove/Bellemeade E.S. FoJG members will work alongside Groundwork RVA high school students, middle school Green Team students, community volunteers, Richmond Tree Stewards, et al. Pizza and fellowship at noon. Please sign up at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4BA8AC29A46-bellemeade6

Tues. Oct. 9, 7:00-8:45. [FOJG Program Meeting](#) Speaker Harrison Wallace.

"Let's Talk Politics" (see above)

Th. Oct.18, 5:30-7:30. [Richmond Green Drinks](#)

Sat. Oct. 20, 9:00-11:00. [Dutch Gap / Coal Ash Hike with the James River Assoc.](#) – Dutch Gap Conservation Area, 251 Henricus Park Rd, Chester, VA 23836 (Henricus Historical Park parking lot)

Join the Sierra Club Va. Chapter and [JRA](#) for a guided tour of Dutch Gap. This event is for anyone who wants to learn more about the impacts of coal ash on the James River. It's a nice & easy hike where you may see some awesome wildlife. Volunteer as a Sierra Club rep: Contact Jessica.Sims@sierraclub.org, 804-366-0745 or Gustavo.Angeles@sierraclub.org, 804-225-9113 x1005

Wed. Oct. 24, 6:30-8:00. [Solar Night at Sierra Club](#) –

Sierra Club Va. Chapter, 100 W Franklin St Mezzanine, Richmond, VA 23220
Event will focus on our "More Solar, More Places" campaign - which is about giving Virginians the tools and power to have their own energy autonomy. Light refreshments provided.

More info: Jessica.Sims@sierraclub.org, 804-366-0745

Sat. Nov. 3, 9:00-2:00. [Dragon Run Kayak Trip](#) (see above)

Tues. Nov. 6, 6:00am-7:00pm. [Election Day](#). Be sure to vote!

Tues. Nov.13, 7:00. [FOJG Meeting](#). Speaker Bob Schamerhorn "Attracting Birds with Water" (see above)

Tues. Dec.11, 6:00. [Holiday Dinner](#). (see above)

Get involved! Visit [HERE to learn](#) about the Sierra Club's Falls of the James Group.

2018 FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joe Brancoli, Chair:
omethid@hotmail.com

Andrew Peacock, Treasurer:
shavonandrew@verizon.net

Shavon Peacock, Secretary:
shavonandrew@verizon.net

Glen Besa:
glenbesa@gmail.com

Scott Burger:
scottburger@me.com

Steve Carter-Lovejoy:
scarterlovejoy53@msn.com

Mary Crutchfield:
marycrutchfield@verizon.net

FOJG Committee Structure

Communications Committee
comprises e-news,
website, publicity and social
media.

Conservation & Advocacy
Committee comprises
conservation,
legislative/political, pollinators,
bike/pedestrian issues. Meets
on the fourth Wednesday each
month.

Membership Engagement
Committee comprises

Bruce Tarr:
bruce.tarr@comcast.net
Steve Yarus:
hsyarus@gmail.com
Daryl Downing, FOJG liaison to, and
Vice Chair of, the Virginia Chapter:
dtdowning@comcast.net

membership, programs, outings
and fundraising. Meets on the
last Thursday of each month.

New members are welcome.

Falls of the James Group



Facebook

Sierra Club Virginia Chapter



Facebook

Websites: [Falls of the James Group](#) | [Virginia Chapter](#)

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This email was sent by the [Sierra Club Virginia Chapter](#)
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