



FOJG November 2018 Newsletter

**Monthly meetings
at the Science Museum of VA
feature outstanding programs.
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!**

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, 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.



Bob Schamerhorn

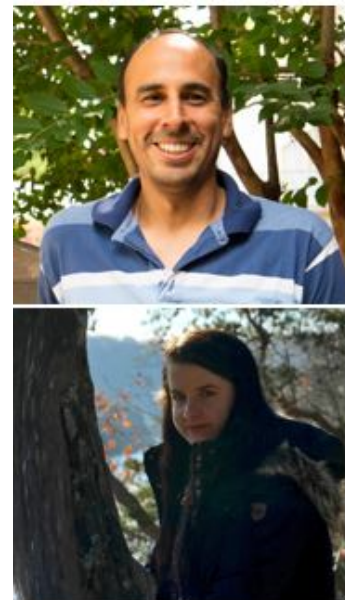
Gustavo Angeles & Alexis Szepesy

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*

FOJG Holiday Dinner

Tues. Dec. 11, 6:00–9:00

Max's Positive Vibe Café

2825 Hathaway Rd. Richmond, VA 23225



Join the Falls of the James Group's holiday buffet dinner for an evening of friendly good cheer. Known for employing and training folks with disabilities, the Positive Vibe Café is just the spot for a fun, relaxed evening in the midst of holiday hubbub. Send in your check, put Tuesday, December 11 on your calendar, and join other Sierrans for a positive vibe to start the holidays!

**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 buffet dinner for Sierra Club members will be \$25; for non-Sierran members \$35. Cocktails/beer/wine can be purchased at a cash bar. With advance notice, special diets can be accommodated. 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!**

**[Solar grants available
for public schools, local governments,
and non-profit organizations](#)**

RVA Solar Fund is offering grants from \$4,000 to \$100,000 to public entities and nonprofit organizations.

Below is an extract from www.rvasolarfund.org/ :

"Public-school systems, local governments, and 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in the Community Foundation's service area (the cities of *Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond as well as the counties of Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, and Powhatan*) are invited to apply to the RVA Solar Fund. Additionally, K-12 public school districts and local governments from the counties of *Amelia, Charles City, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, King and Queen, King William, New Kent, Prince George, Richmond, and Westmoreland* also are eligible."

Check [HERE](#) for details about webinar information sessions on Nov. 8. Info can also be found at <https://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/calendar>

**An Update on Richmond's
Put Schools First Effort**

As a result of last November's *Put School First* referendum which was supported by 85% of city voters, the mayor of Richmond must come up with a plan by January 1, 2019 to update the Richmond City Schools without raising taxes—or say it cannot be done. In the meantime, an extra 1½% tax imposed on city restaurants has enabled the city to borrow \$150 million for construction of three new schools—although not all the money has been earmarked for use by Richmond Public schools, as promised.

The Falls of the James Group of the VA Sierra Club supported the *Put Schools First* effort with the hope that construction/renovation of the needed schools would incorporate solid green practices in their plans. Unexpectedly, there was a positive response from RVA Solar Fund which pledged \$100,000 to support a new Sustainability Associate position for RPS, the purchase and installation of energy monitoring systems, and an agreement with Secure Futures for installation of solar panels on a number of schools at no initial cost.

Editorial Comment on the Current Situation

by Scott Burger

Richmond school modernization now faces an additional uphill battle: the Mayor and other leaders who ran and were elected on 'Education' platforms [continue to champion the Tom Farrell coliseum plan](#) while ignoring [the Put Schools First movement](#). No doubt, we will hear the same tired and false arguments about how Richmond needs to increase its tax base BEFORE modernizing schools. Don't fall for them. Take note of what has in recent years already been financed before school modernization: millions of dollars for the Redskins Training Camp, \$500,000 for studies of a Shockoe Bottom baseball stadium, \$500,000 for a current study of the Coliseum area development with a possible cost of millions more if the plan is approved by the City Council. Richmond citizens should take note of who proposes what. Also pay attention to what political candidates will eventually emerge to challenge the leaders who don't want to put schools first. Join the movement and keep up to date on current happenings.

CALENDAR IN BRIEF

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

Tues. Nov. 6, 6:00am-7:00pm. Election Day. Be sure to vote!

Wed. Nov.7, noon-1:00. [Climate Change in the James River Basin](#). Science

Museum of VA.

Th. & Fri. Nov. 8 & 9, 9:30-5:00. [VA Air Pollution Control Board Meeting; Buckingham Air Permit](#)

Fri. Nov 9, 6:00 - 8:30. [Documentary film on Environmental Justice](#) 1400 Perry St, Richmond

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

Th. Nov.15, 5:30-7:30. [Richmond Green Drinks](#). Hardywood Park Craft Brewery

Sat. Nov.17, 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. Please sign up at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4BA8AC29A46-bellemeade6

Sat. Nov. 17, noon-1:00. [Rally to Protect Our Coast](#)

Sat. Dec.1, 8:00-12:30 [General Assembly Preview](#) presented by VA Conservation Network.

Tues. Dec.11, 6:00. FOJG 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 and FOJG liaison to VA Chapter:
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:

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 Wed. (Email dtdowning@comcast.net to receive advocacy emails about RVA enviro happenings.)

Membership Engagement

marycrutchfield@verizon.net

Bruce Tarr:

bruce.tarr@comcast.net

Steve Yarus:

hsyarus@gmail.com

Daryl Downing, Vice Chair of the
Virginia Chapter:

dtdowning@comcast.net

Committee comprises 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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