



SIERRA CLUB
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

FALLS OF THE JAMES GROUP

FOJG NEWSLETTER: January 2019

**Monthly meetings feature outstanding speakers.
Location: The Science Museum of VA
All are free and open to the public.**

**Bring your old batteries and printer cartridges.
We'll recycle what your recycler won't.**

**Gustavo Angeles &
Alexis Szepesy**
Tues. Jan. 8 at 7:00 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Both presenters are associated with the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter: Gustavo is on staff as Environmental Justice Program Coordinator; Alexis is an issues chairperson for Environmental Justice. 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 the Chapter's Environmental Justice goals.



Gustavo Angeles & Alexis Szepesy work for Environmental Justice within the Sierra Club.

Rob Andrejewski
Tues. Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m.

UR GOES GREEN

Join Rob Andrejewski, Director of Sustainability at the University of Richmond, for a discussion on the course University of Richmond is charting as it pursues its ambitious carbon neutrality and sustainability goals. Learn about the University's commitment to match 100% of its purchased electricity with renewable resources, to create an Eco-Corridor that will steward the James River, and to divert 75% of its waste from the landfill.



*Rob Andrejewski,
UR Director of Sustainability*

Dominic Barrett
Tues. Mar. 12 at 7:00 p.m.

GROW FOOD. GROW COMMUNITY.

Since 2009, Shalom Farms has focused on increasing access to healthy food and the support to live healthy lives. Shalom Farms Executive Director Dominic Barrett will explore the intersections of sustainable agriculture and food insecurity, and discuss how Shalom Farms' work seeks to ensure all have access to food that is good our bodies, good for our environment, and good for our communities.



*Dominic Barrett,
Executive Director Shalom Farms*

**John Sydnor and Staff
of Enrichmond**
Tues. Apr. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

MEET ENRICHMOND!

The Enrichmond Foundation has served Richmond's people, parks, and public spaces for over 27 years. Several staff members will be

introducing the main purpose and program areas of Enrichmond, including Historic Evergreen Cemetery, TreeLab, the 17th Street Market, Partners and volunteers. Staff will touch on how Enrichmond's activities and services create a healthier, more equitable city.



John Sydnor, Executor Director Enrichmond

On the two Tuesdays following the introductory presentation at the Science Museum, Enrichmond staff will lead two on-site tours and further discuss their individual programs. On Tuesday, April 16, Ted Maris-Wolf will lead a tour of Historic Evergreen Cemetery in the East End and discuss the history and volunteer efforts taking place there. On Tuesday, April 23, Aaron McFarland will lead a tour of TreeLab -- a native plant nursery specializing in trees in the Northside. Details will be forthcoming.



Ted Maris-Wolf
Historic Evergreen
Cemetery Caretaker



Aaron McFarland
Tree Lab Manager
Tour: 6:30 pm
Tuesday, April 23

Tour: 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 16



**Mon. Feb. 4 to Wed. Feb. 13
also Sat. Feb. 16**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The 2019 RVA Environmental Film Festival will showcase over twenty local, and national films that raise awareness of environmental issues relevant to Richmond, our nation, and our planet. They will be shown throughout the week at various venues.

Movie goers at WCVE Studios will see the premiere of *The Swamp*, showing the destruction and possible resurrection of the Everglades. The Festival will also feature *Hometown Habitat--Stories of Bringing Nature Home*, illustrating why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Other films include *Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things*, *A Man Named Pearl*, and *The Devil We Know*.

The Festival is one of the few free film events in Richmond due to the generosity of major sponsors -- the Community Idea Stations, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Sierra Club's Falls of the James Group, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

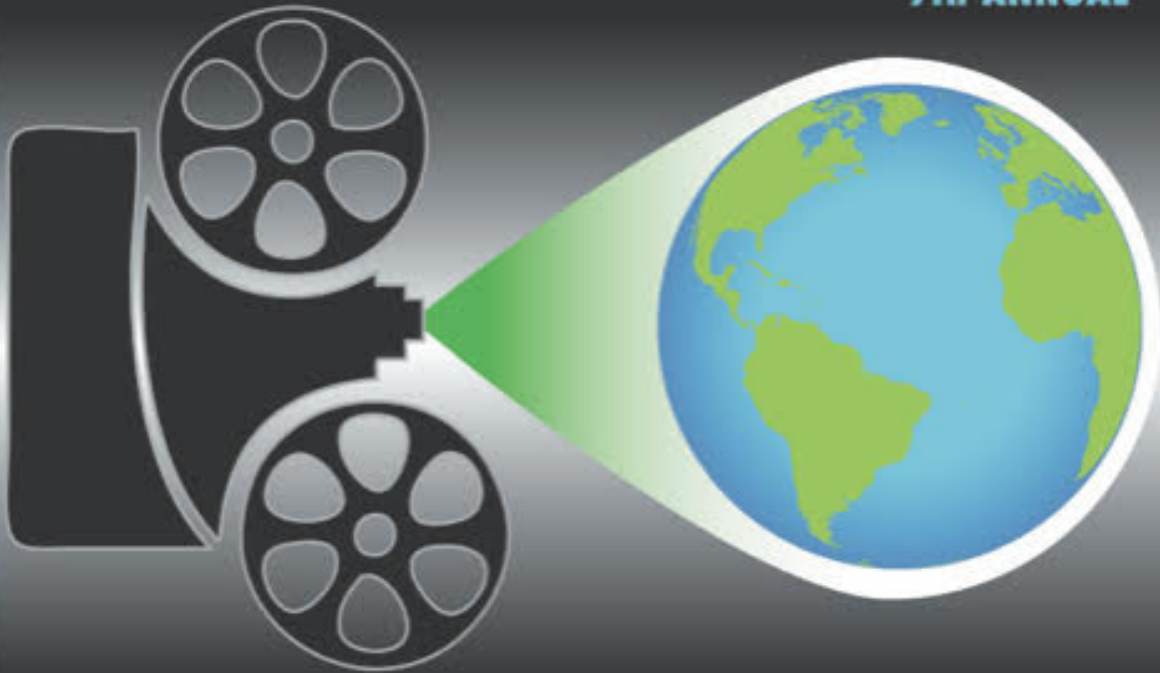
The film titles, detailed synopses, dates, and venues will be available at <https://rvaeff.org>.

article from RVA Environmental Film Festival Group

RVA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

Mon. Feb 4 - Wed. Feb 13 & Sat. Feb 16, 2019

9th ANNUAL



FREE & OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

Check website for films, dates, times & venues

RVAEFF.org

[RVAEFF info](#)

Big Yard Sale Wins Award

The University of Richmond's **Big Yard Sale** is the recipient of the Virginia Recycling Association's 2018 "Lemonade Award", a category recognizing programs that create "something wonderful from a bad situation." Sierra Club's Falls of the James Chapter, one of the local groups involved in promoting and organizing the sale, has been involved since the Big Yard Sale's inception 21 years ago.

As VRA describes in its press release about the award ceremony,
"Every year, thousands of pounds of furniture, clothing, school supplies, and non-perishable food items are left behind at the end of each spring semester. Rather than send these items to the landfill, for the past 21 years, the University of Richmond Office of Sustainability teams up with the local Sierra Club and Goodwill to collect and sell items left by students at an event called the 'Big Yard Sale.' Proceeds from the sale are split between the Sierra Club and student sustainability groups at University of Richmond. Any items left at the end of the sale are donated to Goodwill.

"This program is no small-time lemonade stand. More than 1,000 people from the community came to shop at the May 2018 sale. While so many thousands of unwanted items could create a tremendous amount of waste each year—more than 12 tons were diverted from the landfill in 2018."

Look for the UR Big Yard Sale again in May 2019. See <https://vrarecycles.org> for more information about VRA and its awardees.

FOJG Announces Grant Recipients

by Joe Brancoli, Chairperson FOJG

In December 2018, the Falls of the James group continued its ongoing grant campaign by making two \$1,000 grants to two commendable local organizations.

One went to Capitol Region Land Conservancy for the purpose of including several islands in the James River under the easement which protects the James River Park System.

The second grant went to Shalom Farms, which harnesses many volunteers to grow produce and distribute it to areas which have little access to healthy food. They will use the grant to acquire solar panels on two buildings at the farm. We will learn more about Shalom Farms when director Dominic Barrett will be the speaker at our March 12 general meeting at Science Museum of Virginia.

We have the ability to support such initiatives because of the time and talents that many of you bring to the Big Yard Sale each Spring. Thanks to you, our members, for making our name shine in the community!

Grant applications are still being accepted until February 15, 2019. Please click [HERE](#) for the grant application form and instructions.

**Falls of the James
Executive Committee
2019**

Top row: Bruce Tarr, Andrew Peacock



3rd Row: Joe Brancoli, Steve Yarus
Middle: Lee Williams (new member)
Bottom: Kate McClory (new member), Shavon Peacock
Not pictured: Glen Besa, Steve Carter-Lovejoy

Welcome Kate and Lee!

January Calendar in Brief

* click link for details

Jan. 8, Tu. FOJG Speaker. "**Environmental Justice**" (see above) Science Museum of VA. 7:00.

Jan. 9, Wed. [Sierra Club and CCAN Happy Hour](#). * Triple Crossing Beer in Richmond. 6:30-8:30.

Jan. 14, Tu. [Lobby Day for Clean Energy](#). * 8:00 am (time tentative) Richmond, VA.

Jan. 15, Wed. Deadline: [Application for Solar Grants for Public Schools, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations](#). *

Jan. 21, Mon. [Tour of County Waste Facilities](#): * Fredericksburg & Chester, VA.

Jan. 25+, Fri., [Environment at Risk Art Exhibit](#). * Fri. Jan. 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm (Opening Reception) Project Space @ Plant Zero, 0 E 4th St, Richmond, VA.

Jan. 29, Tu. [Virginia Clean Fuel Policy Day](#) * Richmond. 8:00-5:00.

Jan. 30, Wed. [Conservation Lobby Day](#) * Delta Hotels 555 E Canal St, Richmond, VA . 7:30 -2:00. General Admission: \$25 / Student: \$15.

Feb. 4-13 & 16. [RVA Environmental Film Festival](#). * Free. (see above).

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

2018 FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joe Brancoli, Chair:
omethid@hotmail.com
Andrew Peacock, Treasurer:

FOJG Committee Structure

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

shavonandrew@verizon.net
Shavon Peacock, Secretary:
shavonandrew@verizon.net

Glen Besa:

glenbesa@gmail.com

Steve Carter-Lovejoy:

scarterlovejoy53@msn.com

Kate McClory:

kmccclory12@gmail.com

Bruce Tarr:

bruce.tarr@comcast.net

Lee Williams:

lm4peas@gmail.com

Steve Yarus:

hsyarus@gmail.com

Daryl Downing, FOJG liaison to, and
Vice Chair of, the Virginia Chapter:
dtdowning@comcast.net

- Conservation & Advocacy Committee comprises conservation, legislative/political, pollinators, bike/pedestrian issues. Meets on the fourth Wednesday each month.
- Membership Engagement Committee comprises membership, programs, outings and fundraising. Meets on the last Thursday of each month.

**New members are welcome.
Interested? Contact Shavon
Peacock:
shavonandrew@verizon.net**



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

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