



FOJG NEWSLETTER: March 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.**

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 for 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

FOLLOWUP ENRICHMOND TOURS

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
Tour: 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 16



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

Upcoming Outing!

Join us on Saturday May 4th from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on a 2–3 mile canoe trip down Turkey Island Creek to the James River and Presquile National Wildlife Refuge and back. Justin Doyle of the James River Association will be our outfitter and tour guide. The birding there is great! The cost is \$15 for canoe and equipment rental per person, and the maximum number of people for the trip is 16. If interested, please email Shavon Peacock at shavonandrew@verizon.net.

**Volunteer Now for the
22nd annual Big Yard Sale
to be held May 18-19**

It is time again to volunteer for the fantastic Big Yard Sale at University of Richmond! This recycling effort involves a huge volunteer team that collects, sorts and sells items discarded by students as they leave campus. It's a great example of reduce/recycle/reuse!

Last year's Big Yard Sale was a great success in every way -- diverting good stuff from the landfill, donating leftover items to Goodwill Industries, meeting other volunteers, and generating over \$15,000 shared by FOJG and the University of Richmond (UR). Proceeds benefit educational programs at the University of Richmond as well as the Sierra Club's Falls of the James Group.

In 2018, we successfully transitioned the sale from Millhiser Gym, which is being re-purposed into a training facility, to the concourse in front of Robins Stadium, a space one third smaller than the Millhiser Gym. Because of the smaller space we now presort goods during Early Collection to minimize sorting needed on Collection Day. Here are the important dates:

- **Phone Banking:**
 - April 1-30 (calls to former volunteers)
- **Scouting and Presorting:**
 - Saturday, April 27th to Saturday, May 11th
- **Sale Week**
 - Monday, May 13th: Collection Day
 - Tuesday, May 14th: Sorting
 - Wednesday, May 15th: Final Sorting
 - Friday, May 17th: Finishing odds & ends
 - Saturday, May 18th : Public sale (7:30AM to noon) and Cleanup (noon to 2 PM)

Please consider volunteering for Collection Day, Monday, May 13th, our biggest volunteer day as eighty volunteers are needed to begin organizing in the sale space.

Volunteer [HERE](#) for Phone Banking & Presorting (before May 11)
Volunteer [HERE](#) for the BYS Week (May 13-May 18)

The registration forms describe the various tasks that you can volunteer for. Read the task description and select tasks and times that appeal to

you. You are welcome to invite a friend--please register them also.

For questions or more information, contact Gill Sigmon, our Volunteer Coordinator at gill.sigmon1@gmail.com.

New Members FOJG Communications Committee



Chris OBrion, Kate McClory
Erica Reyes, Lauren Bell, Arminda Zbesheski

The new members (above) of the Communications team are joining long-time members Eric Vrabel, Catherine Welsh and Anne Repp, Check out the new sites:

<https://www.facebook.com/FallsoftheJamesGroup/>

Instagram: **SierraClubFOJG**

Updates on the VA General Assembly

The 2019 VA General Assembly adjourned on Feb. 24. Below is the status of environmental-impact bills that passed both houses of the Virginia

legislature:

- **Coal Ash--The biggest win.** Dominion must remove the coal ash from the existing ponds and recycle at least a quarter of it. The rest would be moved into new, modern landfills.
- **Redistricting.** Passed. A 16-member redistricting commission was created that would redraw the state's legislative and congressional district boundaries after the 2020 census.
- **School facilities.** Passed. Private companies may lease buildings to school districts with an eye toward more renewable energy.

March Calendar in Brief

* click link for details

Mar. 9, Sat. FOJG Workday with [Bellmeade Community Clean-up*](#). 1800 Lynhaven Ave, Richmond, VA 23224. 9:00--noon.

Mar.12, Tu. **FOJG Speaker**, Dominic Barrett. "Grow Food. Grow Community." (see above) Science Museum of VA. 7:00 pm.

Mar.16, Sat. [Climate and Coffee Talk *](#) Plant Zero, 0 E 4th St, Richmond. 2:00 pm.

Mar. 28, Thu. [2019 L.E.A.D. Conference #1](#) *. Sponsored by Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond. 9:00-3:00. Fee.

Ap.4, Thu. [Rally at Main Street Station *](#) (Clean Fuel Vehicle Expo). Richmond. 4:00-9:00 pm.

Ap.6, Sat. FOJG Workday with [Bellmeade Community Clean-up*](#). 1800 Lynhaven Ave, Richmond, VA 23224. 9:00--noon.

Ap.18, Thu. Save the date: [Green Drinks](#) sponsored by Falls of the James Group. Meet for drinks and conversation from 5:30-7:30.

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

2019 FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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 at K-Town
Kitchen, 9 N 4th St.,
Richmond.6:30-8:00

**Membership Engagement
Committee** comprises
membership, programs, outings
and fundraising. Meets on the last
Thursday of each month.

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



Facebook



Twitter

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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