



FOJG Sept. 2019 Newsletter

Add to your calendar:

They're All Here: 2019-2010 Programs

**Unless otherwise noted
all programs are at 7:00 p.m.
on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at the Science Museum of VA**

Sept. 10, 2019 -- A panel of journalists, including Jeremy Lazarus with the *Richmond Free Press*, Mechelle Hankerson with the *Virginia Mercury*, and Patrick Wilson with the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, will present "Reporting on Environmental and Social Justice Issues: from Pipelines to the Richmond Coliseum."

Oct. 8, 2019 – Election Special! Come hear updates on Virginia's legislative races and environmental issues, presented by folks who regularly track the political scene.

Nov. 12, 2019 -- Ed Clark, President and Founder of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, will speak on the Center's role in wildlife management in Virginia.

Dec. 12, 2019, Thurs. -- FOJG Holiday Potluck Dinner, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Westover Station, 5047 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond 23225.

Jan. 14, 2020 – Dr. Todd Lookingbill from University of Richmond will review research on tide pools of the James River, geography of the James River watershed, and invasive species removal.

Feb. 11, 2020 – Goodwill Industries presenters Andrea Butler and Bill Carson will explain how Goodwill recycles goods as well as talk about their unique employment program. A tour of a Goodwill outlet will be scheduled at a later time.

Mar. 10, 2020 – Bill Shanabruch from Reedy Creek Environmental, LLC, will discuss the use of native plants and conservation landscaping for water quality. See (below) the accompanying 3-hour workshop on September 28.

Ap. 14, 2020 – Jay Epstein, President/Developer/Builder of Health E Community, will introduce us to the Walnut Farm Zero Energy Ready Homes.

May 2020 – Big Yard Sale at the University of Richmond and FOJG Picnic.

Fall Program Details

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 p.m.

Reporting on Environmental and Social Justice Issues: From Pipelines to the Richmond Coliseum



Mechelle Hankerson
Virginia Mercury



Jeremy Lazarus
Richmond Free Press



Patrick Wilson
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Three veteran reporters will comprise a panel that will address important current issues of interest to Virginians. They will give us insight into how they gather their information and how science, truth-telling, and advocacy all contribute to the news and opinion articles. Don't miss this lively discussion!

Tuesday, October 8

7:00 p.m.

Virginia's Election Preview



Corrina Beall
Legislative & Political Director
VA Chapter, Sierra Club



Robert Shippee
Legislative Chair
VA Chapter, Sierra Club



Glen Besa
Political Chair
VA Chapter, Sierra Club

Metropolitan Richmond has several of the most contested races in Virginia, with control of the House of Delegates and Senate up for grabs. These races, the issues defining them, and how you can get involved will be discussed by members of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. **Be ready: Virginia elections are coming up on November 5!**

The speakers will share information gleaned from tracking each legislator's votes on environmental issues, from responses to a questionnaire, and from personal interactions with the candidates.

Tuesday, November 12
7:00 p.m.

Sharing a Passion for Wildlife



Ed Clark, president and co-founder of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, will show slides that illustrate the mission of the Wildlife Center: to be a "hospital for native wildlife, teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment." Ed's commitment and passion for this mission are contagious!

Ed Clark 's bio with his notable accomplishments in this field (and the mission statement above) can be found at <https://www.wildlifecenter.org>. Recently

you might have seen him as host of the PBS series "Untamed." Episodes can be seen on the [PBS website](#).

JOIN US IN OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

Sat., Sept. 7

Bellemeade Community Cleanup and Invasives Removal

9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.



The 11th Sierra Club Falls of the James Group workday in Bellemeade is scheduled. Bob Argabright, with Groundwork RVA, is targeting the removal of invasive plants, various gardening activities, and general cleanup near the Bellemeade Community Center (1800 Lynnhaven Ave. Richmond, 23224). Volunteers will work alongside high school students, Middle School Green Team students, community volunteers, Boy Scouts, Richmond Tree Stewards, et al. Please sign up [HERE](#) to join in!

Sun., Sept. 8

Canoe Paddle Outing with James River Association

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



From one of our members:

I purchased a canoe paddle trip for 14 at a JRA fundraiser; it includes lunch, beverages, an expert JRA guide(s), canoes, life vests, paddles, and a beautiful location in Richmond. We're launching from Ancarrow's Landing on the James River in Richmond.

I'm asking \$39 which may seem a bit high but it's exactly what I paid for this package and you're helping to support the James River Association's efforts to keep this river and its watershed as healthy for us and nature as it

can. More info
HERE. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1336552186511864/>
Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ba8ac29a46-canoe2>.
Please sign up at your earliest opportunity to secure your place. You can
use PayPal (dtdowning@comcast.net) or Venmo (@Tylene-Downing).

Thurs. Sept. 12

**Richmond City
5th District Candidate Forum**

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Patrick Henry School
3411 Semmes Ave.
Richmond 23225**

5th District Candidates

Nicholas Da Silva
Stephanie Lynch
Jer'Mykeal McCoy
Robin Mines
Chuck Richardson
Graham Strum
Mamie Taylor
Thad Williamson

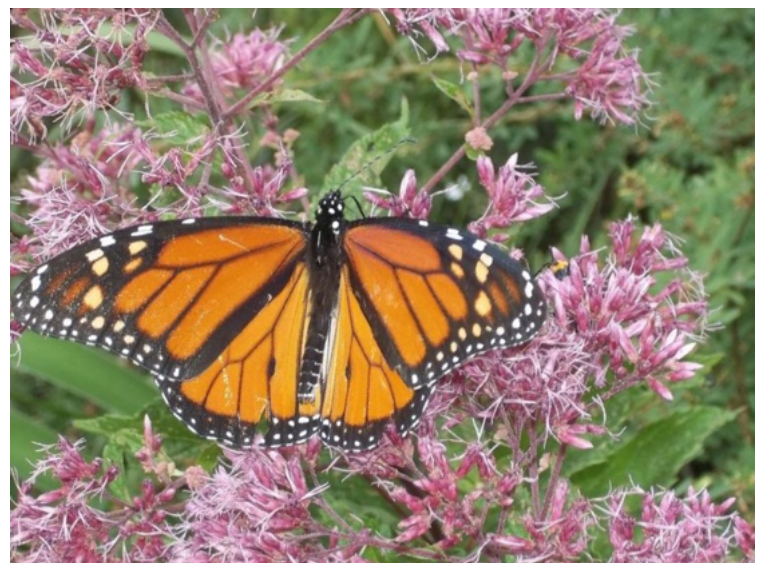
More than a dozen civic, neighborhood and business associations from Richmond's 5th District and **Sierra Club Falls of the James Group** are hosting a Richmond City Council, 5th District Candidate Forum on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Patrick Henry School for Science and Arts (3411 Semmes Ave., Richmond, Va 23225). The eight registered candidates have confirmed attendance and will answer questions from district residents about city and neighborhood concerns.

Sat. Sept. 28

**Conservation
Landscaping Workshop**

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**James River Park Headquarters
4201 Riverside Drive
Richmond 23225**



Come and learn what you can do to make your landscape more sustainable and wildlife-friendly. With emphasis on native plants, site selection, and maintenance, the workshop will also include a walk in James River Park to identify common invasive plants and a hands-on demonstration of proper planting and mulching techniques. This workshop will align with Bill

Shanabruch's presentation at the FOJG program on March 10, 2020. This workshop is for Sierra Club members and costs \$15. All participants will receive a complimentary native plant from Reedy Creek Environmental and a free copy of "Native Plants for Virginia's Capital Region." Advanced Registration is required. See <https://reedycreekenvironmental.wordpress.com/events/conservation-landscaping-workshop/>

Sat. Sept 28

**Save the Mattaponi
10-Year Victory Celebration--
We Stopped
the King William Reservoir!!**

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Join old friends in celebrating the success of the Falls of the James Group who, ten years ago, joined with the environmental community to defeat the City of Newport News' destructive plans to build the King William Reservoir. This win might be considered a top environmental and justice victory of the decade. The celebration is being held at a private home on the Mattaponi River in King William County. Cost is \$20/person to cover caterer. For details and directions contact Tyla Matteson, 804-275-6476, tmatteson1@mindspring.com

Sun. Oct 6

**Taskinas Creek Paddle Trip
in York River State Park**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Join us on Sunday October 6th from 10am-12pm for a canoe/kayak trip on Taskinas Creek, a delicate estuarine environment where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a rich habitat for marine and plant life at York River State Park. The park is on the York River an hour away from Richmond, and is designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Check out the link to the park at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/york-river>

Shavon Peacock from the Falls of the James Group (FOJG) Sierra Club will lead the trip. All equipment is provided by York River State Park. The park has 12 canoes, 9 solo kayaks, and 6 tandem kayaks. The limit is 15 people for people, 14 years and older.

Cost: The cost is \$5 a car load to enter the park, \$10 a person to rent a canoe or tandem kayak, and \$20 to rent a solo kayak for the 2 hour trip. Send a check to Shavon by 9/17 to reserve a boat. If you have your own boat and equipment, you can join us. We also ask for a \$2 donation to the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter for hosting this event.

Signup Instructions: RSVP [HERE](#) to sign the waiver. Then email Shavon Peacock at shavonandrew@verizon.net to let her know which boat you prefer, whether you are bringing your own boat, and your mobile phone number. She will verify your fees and let you know where to send your check. Boat rental checks need to be received by 9/17. If you have questions, you can also call Shavon at 804-320-2318.

Virginia Candidates Endorsed by the VA Sierra Club

The Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club is hard at work vetting candidates for endorsement. The process involves analyzing legislators' past voting record on environmental issues and/or rating their answers to a questionnaire that was sent to every current Delegate and Senator and every opposing candidate. Click [HERE](#) for the list of endorsed candidates to date.

If you value the process and find the results helpful, please contribute to the Sierra Club's effort in supporting the candidates who put environmental concerns high on their list: <http://www.scvapac.org/donate/> . To volunteer, contact Glen Besa, glenbesa@gmail.com, 804-387-6001.

RVA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2020 VIRGINIA FILM CONTEST

The 10th RVA Environmental Film Festival is now accepting entries for the upcoming 2020 Virginia Environmental Film Contest. This contest is once again offering prize money to aspiring film producers from around the state for their submissions now through December 31, 2019. The selected entries will be shown Sunday, February 9, 2020 at the Byrd Theater in Richmond. Prizes, including the \$1000 grand prize, will be awarded that day.

More information about the RVA EFF and the contest can be found [HERE](#) or by contacting scottburger@mac.com.

RAIN BARRELS PAINTED BY RPS STUDENTS FREE TO RICHMOND RESIDENTS



John B. Cary E.S.



Fox E.S.



Oak Grove E.S.



Blackwell E.S.

Rain barrels painted by Richmond City School children are available for FREE to Richmond City residents! Each 55-gallon rain barrel has its own unique design. Winning barrels from four schools are shown above. For more details, email Jenn Clark, Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, Jennifer.Clarke@richmondgov.com

FOJG ONLINE CALENDAR LISTS SIERRA CLUB EVENTS

The Sierra Club is sponsoring the [National Drive Electric Week](#) September 14-22 and the [National Solar Tour](#) October 5-6. FOJG will be involved with the corresponding local events. For more information on these and other local Sierra Club events, see the calendar posted at <https://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/falls-james/calendar>.

A "HEADS-UP" FROM

JOE BRANCOLI, FOJG CHAIR

Hey gang, let's stop a power plant! In Charles City County, on the eastern edge of our Falls of the James Group turf, there is a proposal to build not one but two gas-fired power plants. One has already been approved, but is relatively small. The other is a monster, the 5th largest gas plant in the U.S.A., we are told. As I'm sure you will agree, it is unconscionable to build a new fossil fuel facility of that size at this time. It still lacks a permit which the State Water Control Board will consider at a time TBD and there will be a comment period before then, also. We need to make our voices heard and help concerned residents of Charles City do the same. Details on how you can help will be forthcoming.

Joe

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

2018 FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joe Brancoli, FOJG Chair
and Vice-Chair of VA Chapter
ExComm:

omethid@hotmail.com

Andrew Peacock, Treasurer:
shavonandrew@verizon.net

Shavon Peacock, Secretary:
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Steve Yarus:
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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.

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

**New members are welcome.
Interested?**

Daryl Downing,
Chair of the Virginia Chapter
Ex Comm:
dtdowning@comcast.net

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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