



## FOJG Oct. 2019 Newsletter

### 2019-2020 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**

**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. **Pre-program session at 6:30** on the Richmond 300 Master Plan. (Details below.)

**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. (Details below.)

**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** – University of Richmond's Dr. Todd Lookingbill's talk will be titled "Goats, Dams, and a Living Lab: Stream Restoration in the Gambles Mill Eco-Corridor."

**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.

**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.

## OCT. & NOV. PROGRAMS

# at the SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VA

Tuesday, October 8

7:00 p.m. / pre- program 6:30

## 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.

**A pre-program session will be held at 6:30** for people who are interested in the VA Sierra Club's campaign to include more environment-friendly features in the Richmond 300 Master Plan. The draft strategies, maps and future meeting dates are now available on [www.richmond300.com/share](http://www.richmond300.com/share).



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 [www.wildlifecenter.org](http://www.wildlifecenter.org). Recently you might have seen him as host of the PBS series "Untamed." Episodes can be seen on the PBS website.

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## HOPE YOU'LL JOIN IN OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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October 5-6

### SOLAR HOME TOUR

Richmond and surrounding areas are taking part in the National Solar Home Tour; you can visit sites with solar panels, ask questions, and become informed about solar power by people who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

In addition to homes, the tour includes public schools, University of Richmond sites, and the Ellwood-Thompson Market. Add to the list some displays of electric vehicles, green building materials, rain collection ideas, and energy efficient upgrades. It will be a day well spent!

For specific information about sites and times see

[www.nationalsolartour.org/map/](http://www.nationalsolartour.org/map/)

To attend (it's free), please RSVP to

**Saturday, November 2**

**9:30 am - 12**

**BELLEMEADE COMMUNITY  
CLEANUP AND INVASIVES REMOVAL**

Work with Sierra Club members and community members, including students, in continuing to care for the area around the Bellemeade Community Center. Details and sign-up [HERE](#).

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**ELECTION: NOV. 5  
VA CANDIDATES  
ENDORSED BY  
SIERRA CLUB'S VA CHAPTER**

All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates and all 40 seats in the Virginia Senate are up for election on Nov.5. 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](mailto:glenbesa@gmail.com), 804-387-6001.

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**Thursday, December 12**

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

**FOJG HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER**

**Please join the Falls of the James Group Sierra Club  
for an evening of fun, fellowship, and great food**

**Thursday, December 12th**

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

**at Westover Station**



**5407 Westover Hills Ave. 23225**

**The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres, sparkling conversation, and a cash bar from 6:00-7:00 (soft drinks and water are also available) followed by a pot luck dinner at 7:00.**

**Please visit the link below and let us know what you will bring.**

**Hope we will see you there!**

**POTLUCK RSVP**

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## **RVA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2020 VIRGINIA FILM CONTEST**

The 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:scottburger@mac.com).

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**Oct 11-12  
Virginia Union University  
Richmond**

## **VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY**

The VA Conservation Network is made up of many environmental groups including the VA Sierra Club. VCN will be host for the weekend's focus on the conservation issues facing Virginia and practical, state-level policy solutions. Participants are welcome.

For more information, see [vcnva.org/assembly/](http://vcnva.org/assembly/)

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# A "HEADS-UP" & UPDATE 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.

## **Update:**

FOJG Ex Comm has voted to give \$400 to the effort to pay for yard signs, flyers and refreshments at meetings of the Concerned Citizens of Charles City County group. FOJG Chair Joe Brancoli and state Environmental Justice coordinator Gustavo Angeles attended a meeting of that group on September 15th.

Joe

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## **SLAVE TRAIL WALK PARTICIPANTS**



**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:  
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:**  
im4peas@gmail.com

**Steve Yarus:**  
hsyarus@gmail.com

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

**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](#)  
100 W Franklin St, Mezzanine Richmond, VA 23220-5048