



NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Ed Clark: Sharing a Passion for Wildlife

Tuesday, Nov.12
7:00 p.m.
Science Museum of VA

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 dedication and passion for this mission are contagious!



Ed Clark's is a nationally recognized wildlife expert. He has been involved with pesticide regulation, public land management, and oil spill assessment and response. His impressive bio with its many notable accomplishments can be found at www.wildlifecenter.org.

Recently you might have seen Ed Clark as host of the PBS series "Untamed." Past episodes can be seen on the PBS website.

Ed Clark's photo from wildlifecenter.org

DECEMBER GATHERING NOTE NEW VENUE & DATE

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FOJG Holiday Potluck Dinner
Tuesday, December 10

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Science Museum of VA



Hello friends,

I am pleased to announce that our holiday potluck will now be held at the Science Museum's Dome lobby space on Tuesday, December 10. Please notice the change of venue and date.

A potluck format was chosen because, in exploring restaurants, we found rising costs for attendees and a limited amount of time that we could spend together. The Science Museum allows us plenty of time -- at no out-of-pocket charge to you. The trade-off is that everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Our hope is that you will find this enticing. Let us know that you are attending by signing up for an item to bring on the link below—the same sign-up as in the previous newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you on December 10th!
Joe Brancoli

2020 Falls of the James Programs

Unless otherwise noted,
all programs are at 7:00 pm
on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at the Science Museum of VA

Jan. 14, 2020 – Dr. Todd Lookingbill from University of Richmond will speak on "Goats, Dams, and a Living Lab: Stream Restoration in the Gamles Mill Eco-Corridor."

Feb. 11, 2020 – Goodwill Industries presenter Andrea Butler and Bill Carlson will explain how Goodwill recycles goods and will talk about their unique employment program. A tour of a Goodwill Outlet will be scheduled at a later date.

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.

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE: Proposed Charles City County Power Plant (a continuing issue)

by Joe Brancoli

A recap: 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 future time. There will be a comment period before then.

Current effort: Anyone interested in writing, or helping others to write comments to be submitted when a permit process begins, please contact Joe Brancoli, omethid@hotmail.com. Your participation is needed to help stop this huge plant and the emissions it would produce for years.

FOJG Accepting Nominations for Executive Committee

At the end of each year the Falls of the James Group of the Sierra Club elects individuals who will serve a two-year term on the nine member Executive Committee (Ex Comm). This group, which meets in the evening on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sierra Club VA State Chapter's office in downtown Richmond, makes decisions about guidance of the Falls of the James Group. Interested in joining the Ex Comm? Contact Joe Brancoli at (804) 502-9502, or omethid@hotmail.com by November 20. We welcome candidates or inquiries. Thank you.

What's SUP, Richmond? Reducing Single-Use Plastics

by Steve Carter-Lovejoy

Single-use plastics like straws, take-out containers, beverage cups, plastic bags, and cigarette filters are a ubiquitous convenience in our modern culture. These items create unsightly litter, but also persist in the environment for decades to centuries, posing substantial cost to farmers and wastewater treatment, and direct hazard to wildlife. They also break down in water into persistent microplastic particles that pose known and unknown dangers to wildlife and humans by being ingested.

Our own personal behaviors can substantially reduce the use of single-use plastics, with remarkably little inconvenience – but most people are not aware of the problem or are not motivated to change their behaviors and develop new habits that will reduce their use. A strong public education program can help to change behaviors. Government can help to motivate reduced use – for example by passing bottle deposit bills or banning plastic bags.

Private businesses can also play a role - for instance grocery stores no longer providing plastic bags, and restaurants promoting “green” or “ocean-friendly” practices.

Steve Carter-Lovejoy and Kate McClory are seeking to create an FOJG workgroup aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastics and foam products in the Richmond area. After one meeting, we are looking for volunteers to help outline the problem, determine how to address it, and plan actions to make a difference. If you're interested in getting involved, give Steve a call at 804-898-2804 or an email at scarterlovejoy53@msn.com.

**Looking back:
October's Paddling Outing
at York River State Park**



photo by Patrick Wamsley

Riley Mitchell and Rob Addleson having fun at FOJG's paddle on Taskinas Creek during an October outing.

AREA EVENTS IN BRIEF

Tu. Nov. 7 – FOJG Program: Ed Clark speaker, from Wildlife Center of VA. (see above)

Wed. Nov. 8 – [Lunch Break Science Lecture.](#) *Today's State of the James: A Look at the Health of America's Founding River.* Free. Science Museum of VA; 12:00-1:00.

Th. Nov. 14 – [Virginia Energy Efficiency Fall Forum and Awards Luncheon.](#) University of Richmond; 9:30-4:00.

Sat. Nov. 16 -- [Virginia Solar Congress.](#)

Conference will discuss the current and future solar landscape in Virginia plus practical how-to info. Free. College of William and Mary; 9:30-4:00.

Sat. Dec. 7 -- [General Assembly Preview.](#) Sponsored by the VA Conservation Network. Prepare for Virginia's 2020 General Assembly session by attending a

preview of top environmental topics. \$15. 3005 West Marshall Street. Richmond; 8:30-12:30. Also watch parties held throughout the state. More info and registration [HERE](#).

Tu. Dec. 31 [Contest deadline](#) for submitting entries for the 2020 RVA Environmental Film Festival.

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

Thanks to Hilton Downtown for offering to provide Ed Clark's accommodations during his visit to Richmond.

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

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**New members are welcome.
Interested? Contact Shavon:
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](#)
100 W Franklin St, Mezzanine Richmond, VA 23220-5048