



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

JOIN IN OUR DECEMBER GATHERING!

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FOJG Holiday Potluck Dinner
Tuesday, December 10
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

in the IMAX/Dome Lobby
Science Museum of VA
2500 W. Broad St. 23220



Enter the IMAX/Dome Lobby through the main doors of the Science Museum. Turn left at the elevators and walk to the IMAX theater lobby area. The outside doors to the Dome lobby will not be open.

Please join us between 6-7 p.m. for a social hour with drinks and appetizers and then sit down for dinner from 7-9. Look forward to an extra treat with dessert: a drawing for door prizes!

You can bring your own wine or beer, but put your name on the bottles and give them to the bartender who will serve your drinks per Virginia ABC and

Science Museum of Virginia alcohol policies. No hard alcohol allowed.

Label the name of your dish and indicate if it is gluten-free, vegetarian, or vegan.

As conservationists, we ask you to bring your own serving and eating utensils, plate and cup, although we will have plenty if you forget!

Water and sodas will be provided.

We will have plug-in capabilities for crock pots but no open flame cooking is allowed.

Sign up on the [Sign-Up Genius](#) link below to bring an appetizer, main dish, salad, side dish, and/or dessert. Please indicate on the sign-up line all the names in your party so we know how many people to expect.

[POTLUCK RSVP](#)

See you all there!

Shavon Peacock

FOJG Membership Engagement Committee Chair

2020 Falls of the James Programs

Unless otherwise noted,
all programs are at 7:00
on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at the Science Museum of VA
ALL ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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

FOJG MEMBERS, PLEASE VOTE!

For the Falls of the James Group Executive Committee 2020-2021 TERM

It is the time of year for Falls of the James members to vote for members of the FOJG Executive Committee, a group that acts like a board of directors and does the planning and decision-making for our group. Currently, FOJG has a vibrant and active Executive Committee.

Four current Ex Comm members are running for the four positions that will open as their term expires. Their bios and pictures are below. Any member of the Falls of the James Group may vote, and there is an opportunity for a write-in vote. Just click on the VOTE link below.

If you received a ballot from the VA Chapter of the Sierra Club and already sent in your ballot, your vote has been counted.

[**VOTE**](#)

Four Candidates for Falls of the James Group Executive Committee

GLEN BESA

Having served as former director of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter and as an active Sierra Club staff member for twenty years, I have worked on a wide range of environmental concerns. Most notably, my focus over the last decade has been energy, and

in that time I have followed Dominion Energy closely on issues from coal ash to clean energy.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and an law degree from the University of Baltimore. Currently, I reside in Chesterfield County with my wife, Tyla Matteson.



STEVE CARTER-LOVEJOY

I retired in September 2016 after a varied career that included, most recently, 11 years as a public librarian in Henrico County. I spent 19 years working as a conservation biologist for the state, protecting rare plant and animal species and significant natural communities, and recruiting protection partners among NGO's and other state, local, and federal agencies.

I've been a Sierra Club member since moving to the Richmond area in 1983. I've completed one term on the FOJG ExComm, am active on the FOJG Advocacy Committee, and I'm developing a Single Use Plastics action group. I also volunteer for the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club as Water Issues Chair and as a lobbying member of the Legislative Committee.



BRUCE TARR

During my more than 29 years as an FOJG member, I have followed many national and global environmental issues; however, my focus has always been on regional and local issues, such as water/air quality, sustainability, and public appreciation of what's around us. I am a current member of the Executive Committee of the Falls of the James Group and have agreed to serve one more two-year term.

A special interest of mine is the effort to clean up the long-neglected, largely African-American Evergreen Cemetery, where I spend many weekends clearing weeds, vines and historic overgrown grave markers and enlisting individuals and community groups to participate.



H. STEPHEN YARUS

A retired civil engineer, I have been a member of Sierra Club-Falls of the James Group for six years and a board member of the Big Yard Sale for four years. In addition, I am a current member of the RVA Environmental Film Festival Board and a member of the Richmond Appalachian Trail Club.

I am seeking to raise the environmental consciousness of Richmond, Virginia to reverse global warming for our/my grandchildren. There is limited time to make the changes to the behavior of Richmond. Therefore, I want to be in a FOJG leadership position to make the push to minimize the use of fossils fuel and clean up the environment.



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.

Now . . . your action is needed:

Email Joe Grist of Department of Environmental Quality joseph.grist@deq.virginia.gov with the following requests:

- 1) Ask to be notified when the comment period begins for the special exception for the Balico LLC/Chickahominy Power Application # 52610.
- 2) Ask for an extension of the comment period from the announced **30** days to **60** days, because over holidays, 30 days is too short.
- 3) Explain your concern with building such a HUGE plant and with the inadequate notification of local residents.

That's it for now! But once the comment period begins, the fun really starts! In December, we will want to submit technical comments. We are learning together how to do this.

For the latest information, please contact Joe Brancoli, omethid@hotmail.com, (804) 502-9502. Your participation is needed to help stop this huge plant and the emissions it will produce for years to come.

AREA EVENTS IN BRIEF

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. 10 -- FOJG Holiday Potluck (see above).

Wed. Dec. 11 -- [Webinar: Effective Legislative Advocacy for Everyday People](#). 2:00-3:30.

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

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:
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Daryl Downing,
Chair of the Virginia Chapter
Ex Comm:
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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.
- 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**



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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