



**SIERRA CLUB**  
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Falls of the James Group

## MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

### **Spring Events in Brief (See below for details)**

**Tue., Mar. 10** – FOJG Program: "Using Native Plants" with Bill Shanabruch. 7:00 pm.

**Sat., Mar. 14** – Bellemeade Community Workday. FOJGers help local youth with community outdoor maintenance. Info [HERE](#) 9:00 –11:45 a.m.

**Mon., Mar. 16** – TFC Recycling Facility Tour. Chester, VA. 9:30–11:00 am.

**Tue., Apr. 14** – FOJG Program: "The Zero–Energy–Ready Home" with Jay Epstein. 7:00 pm.

**Sat., Apr. 25** – Bike Tour of Petersburg National Battlefield. 9:30 am.

**Apr. 26–May 9** – Volunteers needed for presorting before the Big Yard Sale.

**Sat., May 23** – Capital Trail Bike Ride. 9:30 am.

**Th., May 28** – FOJG Annual Picnic. 6:00–8:00 pm.

**Sat., May 30** – Paddling in Pocahontas State Park. 10:00 am.

### **2020 Spring Programs**

Programs begin at 7:00 p.m.

on the 2nd Tuesday of the month  
at the Science Museum of VA

Free. All are welcome.

**Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Science Museum of VA**

**Presenter: Bill Shanabruch**

***Using Native Plants  
& Conservation  
Landscaping  
to Enhance Water Quality***

Come meet our speaker, Bill Shanabruch, a knowledgeable cheerleader for the use of native plants to promote healthy ecosystems – both terrestrial and aquatic. He will share examples of successful conservation landscapes that address different goals: education, diversity, water quality, carbon dioxide storage, food production, and aesthetics. For the do-it-yourselfer, he will offer practical advice on site selection, plant selection, and maintenance, as well as hints on avoiding common pitfalls.



Bill Shanabruch, is owner of Reedy Creek Environmental, LLC and was a former biologist with Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality.

**Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.  
Science Museum of Virginia**

**Presenter: Jay Epstein**

***The Zero Energy-Ready  
Home***

As a developer of communities of energy-efficient homes, Jay Epstein will walk you through a history of energy efficient design from the early 90's to the present—and end with descriptions of some of the projects that were, and continue-to-be, built around the state of VA. (Daryl Downing, the Chair of our VA Sierra Club Executive Committee, lives in one of these communities that is located in Fulton Bottom.)



Jay Epstein is President and founder of Health-E-Community Enterprises of Virginia, Inc

**Mark your calendars now:**

**It's coming! Time to volunteer for  
The Big Yard Sale**



It is time again to volunteer for the fantastic Big Yard Sale at University of Richmond! As you know, this recycling effort involves a huge volunteer team that collects, sorts and sells items discarded by students as they leave campus. Preparation starts weeks before the public sale date (this year, Saturday, May 16) so already the Presorting sign-up sheets (April 26 to May 9) are available.

Keep in mind that this project is a perfect example of reduce/recycle/reuse. Volunteers are benefited by knowing that they take part in diverting good stuff from the landfill, donating leftover items to Goodwill Industries, and generating funds for FOJG and the Sustainability Department at UR. Plus, meeting other volunteers makes it all fun! So check your calendar and sign up below!

[VOLUNTEER for PRESORTING](#)

---

**Recycling Plant Tour**  
**TFC Recycling Material Recovery Facility**  
**Monday, March 16, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**  
12206 Old Stage Road

Chester, VA 23836

Join us for a 90 minute tour of Virginia's largest residential curbside recycler's Material Recovery Facility, where recyclables are received, sorted, and bailed. TFC provides recycling services for over 700,000 households in six of Virginia's largest cities, and more than 4,000 commercial customers in Virginia and North Carolina. Maximum of 10 participants 18 and older. Register online [HERE](#).

Contact Shavon Peacock at [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net) if you have questions.

---

**Join us for an FOJG Bike Tour of the  
Petersburg National Battlefield & Crater  
Saturday April 25, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

With John Zeugner as our biking tour guide, we will leave at 9:30 sharp from the Blandford Church and Cemetery Visitor's Center Parking Lot, 111 Rochelle Lane, Petersburg VA 23803. Our moderately hilly 5+ mile ride will take us to Petersburg National Park Visitor's Interpretation Center where we will watch a 20 minute film about the Siege of Petersburg and Battle of the Crater and view the exhibits. Rest rooms and water are available there.

Then we retrace our 5 mile route, pausing at the Park's interpretation stops and other places of interest. Last stop will be at the site of the Battle of the Crater. The estimated time is 2.5 to 3 hours. Lunch afterwards at Trapezieum Brewery or Saucy's Sit Down BBQ in Petersburg if interested.

John Zeugner, who lives near University of Richmond, plans to bring his truck which holds 4-5 extra bikes. Contact him at (c) 804-338-1543 if interested in loading your bike on his truck and then meeting others to carpool from his house.

Cost: No entrance fee for the Petersburg National Park or Visitors Center. A voluntary \$2 donation to FOJG Sierra Club is requested to support our volunteer-led activities.

Register and get further information [HERE](#). Be sure to sign the waiver. Please contact Shavon Peacock, FOJG Sierra Club certified outings leader, at (c) 804-855-8458 or at [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net) if you have to cancel.

---

**Capital Trail Recreational Bike Ride  
Saturday, May 23, 9:00 a.m.**

Bring your bike for a leisurely ride on the Capital Trail. We plan to set off at 9:00 from Four Mile Creek Park off Hwy.5 in Richmond and ride for two to three hours before lunch at Ronnie's BBQ on Hwy.5. All levels of



adult riders are welcome. Maximum of 10 participants. A voluntary \$2 donation to FOJG Sierra Club is requested to support our volunteer-led FOJG activities. Sign up [HERE](#).

---

**Come paddle with us!  
Pocahontas State Park  
Saturday May 30, 10:00 a.m.**

We will meet promptly at 10:00 at the canoe/kayak rental building to rent kayaks, canoes and equipment -- aiming to set off by 10:30. After paddling for a couple of hours upstream on the narrow Swift Creek, we will come back downstream into the wider Swift Creek Lake. View the Pocohontas State Park map [HERE](#).

**Cost:** Park entrance fee is \$10 per car. Canoes and kayaks rent for \$10 an hour or \$30 for 4 hours. All equipment is provided by Pocahontas State Park. We ask for a \$2 donation to FOJG Sierra Club for hosting this event.

**Signup Instructions:** Registration for the trip, waiver form, and more information can be found [HERE](#). Participants will pay at the park, first come first serve. The limit is 15 people 14 years and older. No experience is needed.

**Bring:** Water, snacks/lunch, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, waterproof camera protector, and a change of clothes and shoes (just in case)!

**Carpool:** If interested in carpooling, contact Shavon Peacock at [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net) and Shavon will connect you with other interested carpoolers.

---

**The new FOJG Committee Presents  
Hints to  
Skip the Plastics RVA**

We all know we should, but below are 10 suggestion on how to skip the plastics in our plastic-driven 2020.

1. Single-use plastic bags. Carry usable bags with you everywhere! Refuse a bag if only buying an item or two. Use paper lawn and leaf bags for your yard debris.
2. Water and drinks in plastic bottles. Stop buying bottled water (unless there's a contamination crisis!) Choose aluminum or glass for soda or other beverages. Keep a refillable bottle handy.
3. Single-use produce bags. You can bring your own produce bags or not use them at all if buying a couple of apples or tomatoes. Avoid buying pre-packaged fruits and vegetables if possible.
4. Plastic detergent bottles. Buy detergent in a box or in super-concentrated

form to reduce packaging. Other cleaning products can be homemade, using bottles you already have.

5. Bring your own bottle or mug to the coffee shop instead of getting a to-go cup. They won't mind, really.

6. Take out containers. Don't be afraid to bring your own container for restaurant leftovers. If that's too embarrassing, patronize restaurants that use sustainable packaging. Call ahead and find out!

7. Plastic silverware. Unfortunately those plastic forks and spoons are not recyclable. Ask restaurants not to pack them in your bag automatically, and keep some travel cutlery handy.

8. Reuse and recycle the plastic you have! This includes taking gardening pots back to the garden store, donating clear clamshells to farmers' markets, reusing bread bags, yogurt cups and even those ziplock bags that many frozen products come in.

9. Avoid single-serving cups such as fruit cups, pudding cups. Buy in bulk and pack your kids' lunches and your own using reusable containers.

10. Buy used. This avoids so much packaging that comes with new products, whether it's clothing with plastic tags, electronics packed in Styrofoam or anything displayed in those impenetrable molded plastic wrappers!

11. Here are several contenders that didn't make the top ten: Straws. Small in terms of the bulk waste they produce, but easy to avoid and critical to keep out of the oceans. Disposable razors, disposable lights, mylar balloons, bubble wrap, and cheap toys and trinkets are all things that have sustainable alternatives.

Produced by Margie Langston

---

**Keeping you informed:  
Chickahominy Power Plant  
PLUS  
Charles City Gas Plant**

by Joe Brancoli, FOJG Chair

Fellow Sierrans,

As of press time, the date of the Water Control Board meeting on the special exemption for the Chickahominy Plant has not been announced, except that it is expected to be in "early April". Those who submitted comments by February 14th, including by signing on to Gustavo's email, can speak or turn their time over to others at that meeting.

Meanwhile, a threat related to the OTHER gas plant proposed in Charles City, is taking shape. That plant has the confusing moniker C4GT, and is already fully permitted. Now what else does a power plant need besides permits? Fuel, and

extensions to existing pipelines are proposed by a company called Virginia Natural Gas, or VNG. These extended miles of pipeline, plus several new compressor stations, are before the State Corporation Commission for evaluation. The SCC will hold a hearing on the Charles City plans May 12th, and there will be a public comment period before then.

It may seem endless but these things follow a pattern, and once one learns how, it is routine to give input. We must be heard in opposition to these last foolhardy and dangerous fossil fuel projects, as Virginia and the world move away from such madness at last.

Joe

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

### 2020 FOJG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Joe Brancoli**, FOJG Chair;  
Vice Chair of the VA Chapter Ex Comm  
[omethid@hotmail.com](mailto:omethid@hotmail.com)

**Andrew Peacock**, Treasurer:  
[shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net)

**Shavon Peacock**, Secretary:  
[shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net)

**Glen Besa**:  
[glenbesa@gmail.com](mailto:glenbesa@gmail.com)

**Steve Carter-Lovejoy**:  
[scarterlovejoy53@msn.com](mailto:scarterlovejoy53@msn.com)

**Kate McClory**:  
[kmccclory12@gmail.com](mailto:kmccclory12@gmail.com)

**Bruce Tarr**:  
[bruce.tarr@comcast.net](mailto:bruce.tarr@comcast.net)

**Lee Williams**:  
[im4peas@gmail.com](mailto:im4peas@gmail.com)

**Steve Yarus**:  
[hsyarus@gmail.com](mailto:hsyarus@gmail.com)

**Daryl Downing**, Chair of Sierra Club's  
Virginia Chapter Ex Comm:  
[dtdowning@comcast.net](mailto: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.
- **Membership Engagement Committee** comprises membership, programs, outings and fundraising. Meets on the last Thursday of each month.
- **"Skip the Plastics RVA" Committee** fights single use plastic in the Richmond area.

\* \* \*

**New members are welcome.  
Interested?**

**Contact Shavon Peacock:**  
[shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net)



Facebook



Twitter

**Websites:** [Virginia Chapter](#) | [Falls of the James Group](#)

*Copyright © 2018 Fall of the James Group, Sierra Club, All rights reserved.*

This email was sent by the [Sierra Club Virginia Chapter](#)  
100 W Franklin St, Mezzanine Richmond, VA 23220-5048