

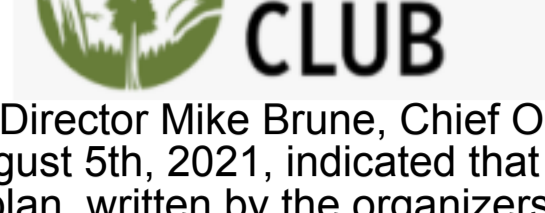
## October 2021 Newsletter

### Falls of the James Group



Late-blooming fall flowers provide monarch butterflies a source of nectar before their great migration to Mexico. Pictured is a monarch butterfly on a marigold flower. Photo courtesy of Veronica Hayes.

## Updated National Sierra Club COVID-19 Response



The National Sierra Club Executive Director Mike Brune, Chief Operations Officer, Jen Trahan, and Ramón J. Cruz, President, as of August 5th, 2021, indicated that outings, meetings, and some events have resumed. All require a safety plan, written by the organizers, to be approved by the Virginia Chapter and National Sierra Club. In addition, all participants at any indoor event MUST be masked, regardless of vaccination status. These guidelines are extended through February 28th, 2022.

## Explore fall scenery and historical sights of Virginia with FOJG on our October 17th and October 30th hikes

### Emancipation Monument, Buttermilk Trail, Belle Island Hike



The newest edition to Brown's Island is the Emancipation Statue, which represents the freedom and equality of enslaved Africans. The Emancipation Statue was unveiled two weeks after the Robert E. Lee statue was removed from Monument Avenue, a great juxtaposition in the City of Richmond. Photo courtesy of Ralph Grove.

**Location:** Emancipation Monument, Buttermilk Trail, and Belle Isle  
**Date:** Sun, Oct 17, 2021 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM  
**Cost:** Free and open to the public, [register here](#)  
**Contact:** Ralph Grove (rfgrove@icloud.com)

On this hike, we'll view the new Emancipation Monument on Brown Island, and then take a walk across the James River and back via the Buttermilk Trail and Belle Island. We'll walk over a variety of paths, with views of the city, the river, and the woods.

The hike will cover about 3 miles and will last 2.5 hours. This is a moderately strenuous hike that includes some uneven rocky ground and a stairway descent of about 40 feet. Participants may or may not be vaccinated, and masks are not required outdoors.

Meet at the monument on Brown Island, near the intersection of 5th Street and Tredegar Street in Richmond at 1:00 pm.

Bring appropriate outerwear, trail shoes, protection from the sun, and water to drink. Minors must be accompanied by a parent. Pets are not permitted on Sierra Club hikes. All participants must sign a waiver form at the start of the hike, or online during registration.

### Hike Petersburg on the Lower Appomattox River Trail



Those who explore the Lower Appomattox River Trail will be surrounded by rich wildlife and history. Photo courtesy of Shavon Peacock.

**Location:** William Patton Park  
**Date:** Sat, Oct 30, 2021 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Cost:** Free and open to the public, [register here](#)  
**Contact:** Shavon Peacock (shavonandrew@verizon.net)

Join FOJG on Saturday, October 30th from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm for a moderate hike on the beautiful Lower Appomattox River Trail. We will start from William Patton Park in Petersburg and hike 2 miles up the river and 2 miles back. We will see old dams, mills, canals, past and present railroad bridges, and beautiful rapids. The fall colors should be great. If interested, we will then drive over to Tramonto Ristorante or Trapezium Brewery in Old Towne Petersburg for an outside lunch around 12:00 pm.

The program guides are Richard Taylor of the Friends of the Lower Appomattox Trail (FOLAR), and John Zeugner, who will give us the history of the area. Here is an [overview map of the trail](#).

## Register for our Monthly Virtual Programs

### Richmond Climate and Ecological Emergency Resolution



**Location:** Virtual, [register here](#)  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 12, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
**Cost:** Free and open to the public

Councilwoman Katherine Jordan will discuss the origin of and urgent need for a declaration of climate emergency in Richmond. Our speaker is the architect of the resolution which just passed Richmond City Council unanimously. We will discuss the provisions of the resolution and what we can do to implement them, including vehicle fleet electrification, winding down of Richmond Gasworks, and many more.

### Plastic Pollution in Virginia: Trends, Sources, Solutions



**Location:** Virtual, [register here](#)  
**Date:** Tue, Nov 9, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
**Cost:** Free and open to the public

Virginia and most Americans are increasingly aware of and concerned with pollution that litters our neighborhoods, clogs our streams and storm drains, and harms our oceans. In fact, the issue of virtually all living things, including us, is contaminated with microplastics. Our speaker, Katie Register, has spent years researching plastic waste in Virginia, its sources, and how it becomes litter. In addition to sharing her data on plastic pollution gleaned from reports on beach and stream clean-ups, Katie will discuss possible solutions to plastic pollution, as well as challenge solutions being promoted by the plastics industry.

## Upcoming Monthly Programs



Photo courtesy of Veronica Hayes.

Stay tuned for these upcoming FOJG program registration links on our [FOJG Calendar](#).

1/11/22 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm – *Monarchs: Endangered but not Protected* with Karl Green and Chris Burnside

2/8/22 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm – University of Richmond Student Environmental Presentation *Highlighting Conservation Projects* with Dr. Todd Lookingbill

3/8/22 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm – *Urban Farms* with Duron Chavis

4/12/22 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm – *What do you know about Wetlands and their Importance?* By the Virginia Institute of Marine Science

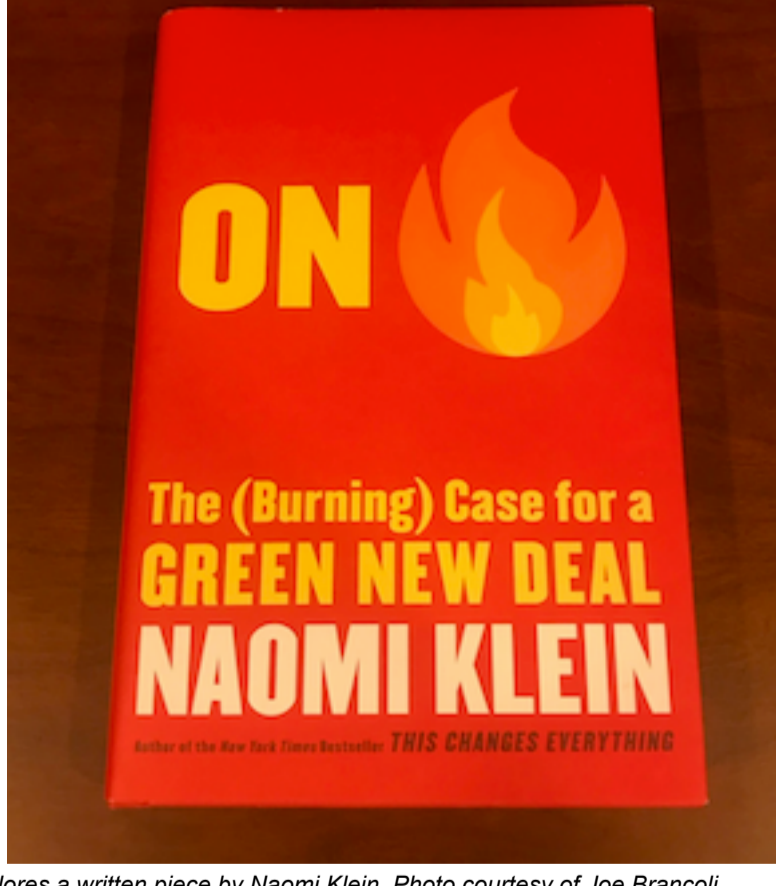
## Volunteer at Bellemeade Park



Many volunteers help make Bellemeade Park a great place. Photo courtesy of Shavon Peacock.

Bellemeade Park Register and Create Work Days are 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, on 10/16/21, 11/13/21, and 12/11/21. [Register here](#).

## Joe's Book Nook



FOJG Executive Committee Chair, Joe Brancoli, explores a written piece by Naomi Klein. Photo courtesy of Joe Brancoli.

### By Joe Brancoli

**On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal** is the first book that I've read by Naomi Klein. Where have I been?

This collection of essays, speeches, and "think pieces" written between 2010 and 2019 may not be her finest work, but is terribly impactful, and with the older pieces resonating today more than when written.

In addition to items that directly and urgently advocate for a comprehensive approach to human justice and the planet's needs, she really hits home with some narrowly targeted themes, like the consequence of huge wildfires as experienced by her family in British Columbia, in the chapter "Season of Smoke."

As a newcomer to Klein's work, I ask that you take this article more as an endorsement of an author than a particular work, and grab what you will, as I plan to do; of course at independent bookstores near you.

## Get Featured in the Newsletter

### Photo of the Month and Member Spotlights

Have you recently volunteered for a meaningful project? Photographed something beautiful outdoors? Stumbled upon an interesting trail, park, or historic site? Contact Veronica Hayes at [veronicasydneyhayes@gmail.com](mailto:veronicasydneyhayes@gmail.com) with the subject "FOJG Newsletter" for a chance to be featured in the upcoming newsletter. Please email pictures, a blurb, and important information such as your name, the date, and the location by the 22nd of the month.

## 2021 FOJG Executive Committee

**Joe Brancoli**, FOJG Executive Committee Chair/Leadership Chair, & Acting Chair VA Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee: [joesierra@gmail.com](mailto:joesierra@gmail.com)

**Glen Besa**, FOJG Political Chair and Outings Leader: [glenbesa@gmail.com](mailto:glenbesa@gmail.com)

**Steve Carter-Lovejoy**, FOJG "Skip The Plastics" Committee Chair: [scarterlovejoy53@msn.com](mailto:scarterlovejoy53@msn.com)

**Carille Greenberg-Ribley**, FOJG Executive Committee Member: [carillegr@gmail.com](mailto:carillegr@gmail.com)

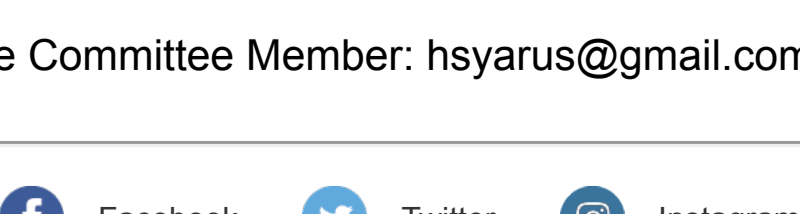
**Shavon Peacock**, FOJG Secretary, Membership Engagement Chair, & Outings Leader: [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net)

**Lee Williams**, FOJG Advocacy Chair: [lee.sierraclub.greennewdealva@gmail.com](mailto:lee.sierraclub.greennewdealva@gmail.com)

**Aileen Rivera**, FOJG Executive Committee Member: [jgmoulds@aol.com](mailto:jgmoulds@aol.com)

**Bruce Tarr**, FOJG Executive Committee Member: [bruce.tarr@comcast.net](mailto:bruce.tarr@comcast.net)

**Steve Yarus**, FOJG Executive Committee Member: [hsyarus@gmail.com](mailto:hsyarus@gmail.com)



Thanks for all you do for the environment,  
 Veronica Hayes  
 Newsletter Editor  
 Sierra Club Falls of the James Group

