

November 2021 Newsletter

Falls of the James Group



Fall foliage is currently abundant throughout the state of Virginia. Pictured above is Bear's Den Overlook in Bluermont, Virginia located on the Appalachian Trail. Photo courtesy of Veronica Hayes.

Raise Funds for Sierra Club Falls of the James Group's Grants Program

By purchasing a reusable item, you can help fund community projects that protect the environment and advance environmental justice

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
All Proceeds Go Towards Community-Led Environmental Conservation Projects in Central VA



ONLINE STORE 

We are selling t-shirts and totes in honor of our Skip the Plastics campaign to impose a 5% tax on plastic bags in Virginia. All products are WRAP certified. In an effort to prevent waste, we are working with the Richmond-native company Bonfire to print and distribute all products on demand. Graphic courtesy of Sera Davenport.

The Sierra Club Falls of the James Group offers a grants program to community groups participating in efforts to protect the environment in Central VA, with priority given to projects that advance equity, inclusion, and environmental justice. This program was supported in the past by an in-person fundraiser which has not been held due to the pandemic for two years in a row. As a result, the grants program has been suspended.

Now more than ever we need to fund locally-led environmental conservation projects! To restart this impactful grants program, we will be selling [reusable products through this online store November-December 2021](#). We will be sharing the impact of past projects throughout the campaign so make sure you follow us on social media.

We hope this campaign will not only raise funds, but also raise awareness for important climate and environmental policies. The designs advocate for these very policies and were created by VCUart students for use by the Falls of the James Group. Barry O'Keefe, a professor in VCU's Department of Communication Arts, led students through this project. You can learn more about the artist who created each design on the product pages.

Have questions or want to get involved? Please contact the fundraising organizer, Sera Davenport, at davenport.sera@gmail.com. Sera has a background in technology and media, and has produced 300+ talk shows with global luminaries in climate mitigation, adaptation, academia, and innovation fields. She is volunteering her time to raise funds for this program because she believes that truly transformational change comes from the bottom-up, not the top-down.

Learn more about the [grants program and see past grantees here](#).

Register for our Upcoming Programs

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

Virginians and most Americans are increasingly aware of and concerned with plastic pollution that litters our neighborhoods, clogs our streams and storm drains, and harms our oceans. In fact, the tissue 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.

Green Giant Award Presentations and Travel Program:

"The Perseids Meteor Shower in Joshua Tree National Park" by Tamara Smith and Gill Sigmon and "A Canal Barge Holiday in England: Two Weeks on the Avon Ring" by Shavon Peacock



Photos courtesy of Andrew Peacock.

Location: Virtual, [register here](#)
Date: Tue, Dec 14, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Cost: Free and open to the public

Meet the heroes we are honoring for their environmental efforts with FOJG Green Giant Awards. Then follow Tamara Smith and Gill Sigmon as they describe their adventures in Joshua Tree National Park and the inspiration for traveling there. Learn about the location and landscape of the park, the dark sky designation, and Joshua Trees.

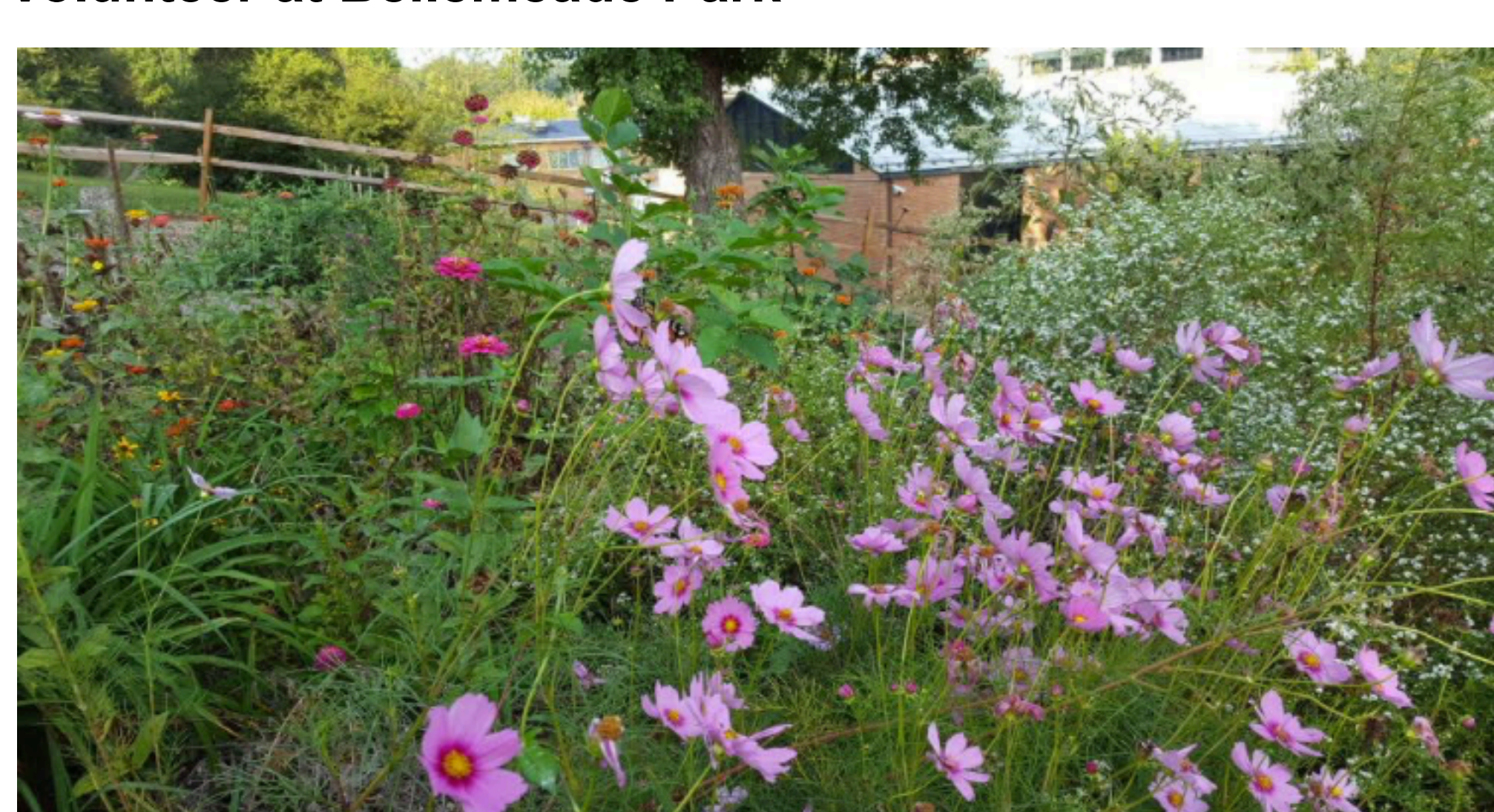
Shavon Peacock will follow up with a trip report on Andrew's and her two weeks traveling on the Avon Ring in England on a 60 foot long, 6-foot-wide barge. The 108-mile Avon Ring takes boaters along parts of the Stratford Canal, River Avon, River Severn, and Worcester & Birmingham Canal. Learn about the trials and tribulations of driving the barge, negotiating bridges, tunnels, aqueducts, and 130 locks, including flight locks. You will also hear about many of the interesting sights they saw in the bucolic Warwickshire and Worcestershire countryside, including the towns of Stratford-Upon-Avon, Tewkesbury, and Worcester.



Photos courtesy of Andrew Peacock.

[Visit the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter calendar](#) for more FOJG programs and events.

Volunteer at Bellemeade Park



Zinnias add a splash of color to Bellemeade Garden. Photo courtesy of Shavon Peacock.

Bellemeade Park Conserve and Create Work Days are 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, on 11/13/21. Register through this [Facebook link](#).

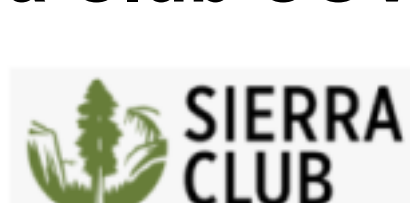
October Outings Trip Report



Shavon Peacock, who helped lead the outing, described the event as "A delightful fall outing!" Photo courtesy of Shavon Peacock.

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, Shavon Peacock and Ralph Grove led a hike on the Lower Appomattox River Trail in Petersburg. Roughly 20 FOJG members and hikers were in attendance. Richard Taylor of the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River Trail (FOLAR) presented the history of the trail, dams, and mills. John Zeugner, Vice President of the Battersea Foundation and previous long-time chair of FOJG, told attendees about the history of Battersea and gave a tour of the mansion, rich with Palladian architecture. After hiking and exploring the historic site, half of the group enjoyed lunch on the patio of Tramonto's Ristorante in Olde Towne Petersburg.

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.

Joe Brancoli, FOJG Executive Committee Chair/Leadership Chair, & Acting Chair VA Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee: joebsierra@gmail.com

Glen Besa, FOJG Political Chair and Outings Leader: glenbesa@gmail.com

Steve Carter-Lovejoy, FOJG "Skip The Plastics" Committee Chair: scarterlovejoy53@msn.com

Carille Greenberry-Ribley, FOJG Executive Committee Member: carillegr@gmail.com

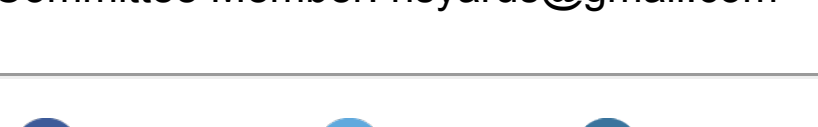
Shavon Peacock, FOJG Secretary, Membership Engagement Chair, & Outings Leader: shavonandrew@verizon.net

Lee Williams, FOJG Advocacy Chair: lee.sierraclub.greennewdealva@gmail.com

Aileen Rivera, FOJG Executive Committee Member: jgmoulds@aol.com

Bruce Tarr, FOJG Executive Committee Member: bruce.tarr@comcast.net

Steve Yarus, FOJG Executive Committee Member: hsyarus@gmail.com



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



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