If Virginia is to be an early leader in the manufacturing of off shore wind turbines, ship building to install and service the turbines and in the deployment of wind farms off the coast at Virginia Beach, we need to get it blowing! We have the opportunity to create 10,000 career length, good paying jobs in this emerging industry. What will it take to make this happen? Join us for this exciting program on what must be done and what you can do to bring clean, renewable offshore wind power to Virginia. Our speakers will be Glen Besa, VA Director of the Sierra Club and a Virginia based wind developer (invited).

National Sierra Club is urging Groups to host occasional ‘Interactive discussion’ meetings, focused around a topic or issue specific to the location of that Group. They have observed that these meetings are educational, stir peoples passions, and motivate members to get involved. Karie and Eric lead a discussion in May which was very interesting, engaging and stimulating! This session will focus on recycling, the current focus of FOJG, and Adele’s Conservation Committee will present some of its ‘cutting edge’ composting and recycling findings. Please plan to attend! More details at the September meeting.

Richmond has been chosen to be one of 17 US metro regions where the public and private sectors will work together to build the infrastructure necessary for a significant number of electric vehicles (including segways). Dominion, the Chamber, and other mainstream organizations are pushing this emerging technology, which may revolutionize our society. You won’t want to miss this!

ALSO, November is National Recycling Month!!

SAVE THE DATE — Wednesday, December 7, 2011 6:30 pm!
The Falls of the James Group will celebrate the Holidays and hold our annual Far-Out Fundraiser on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, much as we did in 2010. We’ll have delicious food and drink, a silent auction and a raffle, opportunities to buy Sierra Club goodies for those naughty and nice, and our 4th annual Green Giant Award.

We’ll also have a great guest speaker -- but since this is being written in early August, we don’t yet have the appropriate person lined up. You can trust that we’ll bring in someone worth hearing, to move you and make the evening memorable - but we’ll have to hold off making the announcement until the November meeting, and we will have the Dec-Jan- Feb newsletter going out at the end of November. Save the date and plan on making Dec. 7th one of the highlights of your holidays.
With environmental and budgetary concerns weighing heavily on us, recycling of all kinds would seem to be a no-brainer—for individuals who want to protect scarce natural resources, for businesses scrambling to build “green” credentials, and for politicians and other officials seeking credit for creating jobs and saving taxpayer dollars.

In fact, the momentum is building for increased recycling in greater Richmond, but in comparison with other parts of the country—and especially with certain other countries around the world—progress here is painfully slow.

In response, FOJG members have dedicated time, energy, and funds for the last two years to a multi-faceted campaign called “Ratchet It Up, Richmond!” to take recycling in this region to the next level. The campaign has included the following:

(1) Educational programs. A major emphasis has been to educate ourselves about the scope of the problem and to determine how we can make a difference. Toward that end we have invited knowledgeable guest speakers to headline monthly program meetings, including Nancy Drumheller, Public Information Coordinator for the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority; Stephen Heinitz, Recycling and Reuse Coordinator, and Jacek Ghosh, Director of Sustainability, both of VCU; Dave Heglas, Director of Material Resources of the Trex Company in Winchester, a business that collects plastic film (e.g. plastic bags) and transforms it into lumber; and Alicia Zatcoff, Richmond’s Sustainability Manager and recipient of FOJG’s 2010 Green Giant Award.

(2) Direct action and funding support. Since 2009 we have collected CFLs, batteries, printer cartridges, and #5 plastics at our monthly meetings. In addition, we co-sponsored Earth Day activities for children in 2010 with a $750 grant to the nonprofit organization, Save the Trash; and more recently contributed almost $2,000 to help purchase recycling bins for upcoming public festivals and events in Richmond. It’s worth noting, too, that our annual fundraiser at the University of Richmond, the Big Yard Sale, has become a recycling lollapalooza in its own right.

(3) Policy-making and advocacy. This past legislative session, members of FOJG’s Conservation Committee lobbied for bills that would either ban plastic bags outright or impose a substantial tax on them. We are also proud that two of our members, Scott Burger and Susan Wagner—both outstanding Folk Festival recycling volunteers—are now working with the City of Richmond on the inside as part of the city’s new Green Events Team to promote recycling. In addition, our members are making their voices heard on recycling needs as part of the city’s ongoing Sustainability Stakeholders meetings.

(4) Collaboration with business allies. Behind the scenes members of the Conservation Committee have begun meeting with representatives from selected businesses to learn about their recycling efforts and to find out if we can help them achieve their goals. Recent guest speakers have included Wade Carmichael, Sales and Merchandising Specialist Non-Perishables, with Martin’s grocery stores in Richmond, which contracts with Trex to provide plastic film, and Amber Foster, a partner in RVA Green Management Services, a new business specializing in waste stream audits for businesses. RVA Green has recently helped the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Richmond initiate a full-scale kitchen composting operation.

Although these efforts constitute a good start, we realize much more needs to be done. For example, apartment buildings and businesses are not required to recycle. Bus stops need recycling bins. Schools in particular should emphasize recycling. Everything sold at public festivals and events should be recyclable or compostable. There should be a way to recycle all seven types of plastics and to compost at the curb, too, as there are in other parts of the country. We also need more uses for recycled glass, which currently has little market value. Yard waste and restaurant refuse throughout the region ought to be composted. The list goes on.

To tackle a job this big, we need the ideas and energy of as many of our members as possible. That’s why in the coming year we hope to give you multiple, concrete ways to participate along with us. Because the gap between the status quo and the ideal is so vast, together we are bound to make a positive difference!
Shavon and I have been asked to act as Falls of the James, Sierra Club outings organizers. To this end I have become certified in Wilderness First Aid. In order to become an official Sierra Club trip leader I will have to pass officially sanctioned trip leadership training. In the meantime, Shavon and I are proposing two casual outings that are not officially sanctioned.

On Saturday, September 17th we will be going over to York River State Park for the day. We would welcome company! Activities in the park include hiking and canoeing. From 10:00 a.m. until noon on that day, the park is looking for volunteers to help with clean up as part of Estuaries Day. From 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 pm. one can rent a canoe to paddle Taskinas Creek, which is within the park boundaries. More information can be found at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/yor.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/yor.shtml).

On Saturday, October 29th I plan to go hiking in the Shenandoah National Park. Once again, company would be welcome. From Big Meadows I plan to hike down to Dark Hollow Falls. This 1.4 mile trail (one way) descends 440 feet to one of the most accessible waterfalls in the park. Return to the trailhead is by the same route. For those feeling more adventurous there is a loop trail back up to the trailhead via Rose River Falls, which approximately triples the distance and adds another several feet of descent and ascent.

We have put together a list of potential trips for the consideration of the chapter. We included a wide variety of options, hoping to provide something for every taste. If any of these trips interest you, or you have suggestions for others, please contact us and we will try to organize trips that cater to as many members as possible.

We can be contacted at ShavonAndrew@Verizon.net or by phone at 804-320-2318 between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Editor’s Note: Always bring hiking shoes, water, food and/or snacks, bug repellent, light rain gear, hat, flashlight, whistle, and cell-phone (if you have one) Please leave your itinerary with family or friends. Plan for weather changes. And car-pool with friends, if you can-- smaller carbon footprint, much more fun.

Urban Explorations - Third Wednesdays in September & October

These are educational and social “field trips” organized by John Zeugner for those in the metro region who want to explore the outdoors and/or environmental issues closer to home. Programs cover history; urban development and environmental topics; natural resources, parks, open spaces uses and conservation. These are for families with children, seniors, and rambling adults, and if there are walks, they are not strenuous, and fun!

Bring comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothes, and water. Umbrellas and flashlights might be good ideas too. Questions, call John Z at 288-5005.

**Wednesday, September 21  7:00 pm**
Tour the newly-renovated Reedy Creek Visitor’s Center with Park Manager Ralph White and take a 2 or 3 mile twilight hike!

After our tour, we will walk south on the service road down to Belle Isle --- if time permits, we see some of the new trails on Belle Isle’s south shore. Please park your cars at the Reedy Creek Visitor’s Center parking lot at 4301 Riverside Drive (note: very rarely, cars in this lot are broken into --- mostly during the summer. Be smart and leave valuables at home, and don’t lead juveniles into temptation!) Walk across the Railroad tracks and take a right to the Visitors center. Bring hiking shoes, water and a flashlight. A $5 charge benefits the JRPS.

**Wednesday, October 19  7:00 pm**
Tour new GRTC Bus Maintenance Facility (a LEEDS bronze facility) and hear about GRTC’s plans for BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) and new Transfer Stations on Broad Street with Steve McNeally and another planner (TBA).

Meet at GRTC’s Corporate Office/Bus Maintenance Facility at 301 East Belt Boulevard (Westover Hills Blvd turns into Belt Blvd after is crosses Midlothian Turnpike) and see the state of the arts control center, routing and bus stops ready for smartphone apps, and plans for the new CNG busses. It will be high-tech and way cool.
Green Residential Projects

A FoJG Urban Exploration this summer, lead by John Zeugner, took us to two Green residential projects - The Augusta Project, a small 1938 Cape Cod at 4600 Augusta Ave in the City of Richmond, a LEEDS Platinum renovation & expansion by Richard Cross / Hollyport Ventures LLC and his son Architect R. Michael Cross of DC; and The Phoenix at 1417 Grove Ave in the Fan, owned by Drs Susan Miller and Kenneth Kendler (both at MCV). Just as their initial renovation project started, it completely burned. They then hired Patrick Farley, of Watershed Architects, to guide a LEEDS Platinum low-energy, renewable materials, non-toxic finishes and biophilic home, complete with skylights, an interior living plant wall, rooftop garden with water harvesting, H2O-hogs, smart car parking, and much more. Patrick, who spoke to our group in 2003, helped guide the tour, and afterwards, refreshments were enjoyed.

2011 Big Yard Sale Profits Exceed 2010 Success

In May, despite the heat, more than eighty Sierra club members helped with the University of Richmond Big Yard Sale, a week-long effort to capture thousands of student's discarded goods - everything ranging from furniture to books to clothes to kitchen articles. Again, Gil Sigmon is the hero of the event, organizing the recruitment of large numbers of volunteers, renting two U-Haul trucks, and making Monday's "dumpster-diving" the biggest intake day. He also brought his engineering skills to bear by providing information on the better-selling goods (based on inventorying goods last year and determining what items sold the best) so we could bring prices in line with demand. Tamara Smith did her usual extraordinary best by managing publicity and signage, bringing in 60 extra tables, and organizing the sorters.

Other volunteers continued to sort and price goods, and 2 dozen helped on the sale days, Friday and Saturday, when hundreds of buyers and the curious poured into the gym to find great deals on refrigerators, chairs, microwaves, lamps, sofas, TVs, household goods and thousands of articles of clothing. More than $11,444 was grossed, and half of the net was split with UR Green, the UR student environmental group. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all, and special thanks to all the SUPER-VOLUNTEERS!

Changes with The Fall Line Newsletter

We haven't discontinued the Newsletter -- we merely shifted its printing to 4 times a year, instead of bi-monthly. We should have another issue coming out before December 2011.

Additionally, your FOJG Executive Committee is still working a plan for transitioning from paper newsletters to an e-newsletter, for those who request it. Printing and mailing each issue of The Fall Line costs more than $1,200 (roughly 73 cents per copy) per issue. Times four times a year, that's $2.90 per year per member.

Your SC membership really does NOT pay for this newsletter. Until recently, the National Sierra Club office sent this Group $1 for each member in the group, per year (derived from the $35 membership fee) but since the Great recession, we aren't getting any funds from National.

Many nonprofit organizations, and many other SC chapters, are moving towards decreasing their printed newsletters and utilizing electronic or online newsletters.

Digitalized email newsletters have the benefit of saving on paper and thus trees, which is certainly part of our conservation mission, and they can be sent more frequently than every other month, and be more timely.

Please understand that we will continue to print a paper Newsletter, for the near future, but we do want to move more and more of our members to e-newsletters, and conserve our fiscal resources and save more trees. Look for more information in the next Fall Line issue. JJZ
Litter - Ownership - Activism
by Catherine Welsh

Why do people litter? Why are we trashing out public spaces? Why can't they just hold onto their trash long enough to find an appropriate receptacle?

These questions surface every time we drive by an unsightly display of thrown or dumped trash. The three things we know for sure:

1. trash is a magnet for more trash
2. litter is not just unsightly it can harm wildlife by entering our waterways or by luring animals in search of food to highway shoulders and
3. paying civic employees to pick up trash is very expensive for the community and taxpayers.

Localities and the State of Virginia have programs so individuals, families, groups, businesses, and organizations can adopt a street, highway or spot and police the trash buildup. This is an easy but self-rewarding activity. Register with your locality and then go out and pick up the trash! Take it home and recycle what you can or contact your program coordinator for collection pick up. Involve your family or walking partners, your church youth group or book club members, your neighbors or your golfing buddies, your scout troop or your carpool.

Take back your clean and litter-free spaces. For more information contact:

VDOT – Adopt-a-highway
http://www.virginiadot.org

Keep America Beautiful
http://www.kab.org/

Keep Virginia Beautiful
http://www.keepvirginiabeautiful.org

Richmond – Clean City Commission
http://www.richmondgov.com

Falls of the James Group is seeking talented volunteers:

• Newsletter Editor – prepares, edits quarterly newsletter and arranges for timely mailing.
• Secretary – records actions of the EXCOM meetings, corresponds when needed.
• Publicity – gets the word out about activities of Falls of the James Group
• Political – keeps track of local city and county candidates’ environmental standings
• Legislative – studies Virginia House, Senate, and local proposals that affect environmental protection.
• Excom delegate – attends EXCOM meetings, takes active part in organization activities.

Virginia’s Appliance Rebate Program

If you are replacing an energy hog appliance with an “Energy Star” (C) appliance, you might qualify for a rebate from the Virginia Energy Efficient Appliance Program.

For complete information, application, and directions to the web site at http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/arra.shtml to see if you are eligible for a rebate in any of these categories:

- Heat pump, air source - $300
- Natural gas or propane furnace - $250
- Heat pump water heater - $250
- Tank-less natural gas or propane water heater - $225
- Clothes washer - $75
- Refrigerator - $60
- Dishwasher - $50
- Room air conditioner - $40
- Storage natural gas or propane water heater - $35
- Central air conditioner - $500

Some restrictions apply:
Appliance must be for residential use at a Virginia location.
Appliance must replace an existing like appliance and the old appliance must be recycled or hauled away for proper disposal.
New appliance must be ENERGY STAR qualified.

Rebates will NOT be available for items purchased prior to April 28, 2010 (May 28, 2010 for Heat Pump Water Heaters, September 1, 2010 for Dishwashers and Room Air Conditioners, or March 1, 2011 for Central Air Conditioners). Applicant has sixty days after reservation to submit their claim. CW
For the past year or more, Karie Walker has been our Membership and Publicity Chair, Secretary, part of the infamous “Gang of Three” Fundraising Committee leadership, and active in most of our public outreach events.

Now, Karie has become the FOJG Legislative Chair and on the state Legislative Committee, the FOJG representative /liaison for the state chapter, participating in their meetings in Charlottesville every other month, and she just joined the state level Fundraising Committee. Whew! Karie would love to have a few interested members (or non-members, for that matter) volunteer to help her with Legislative and Political matters -- voter education for the upcoming November elections, evaluation of candidates and endorsements, and preparing for the 2012 Legislative session. When you see her in September, be sure to ask her what you can do to help! You’ll get energized, and maybe help influence an election’s outcome!

Eric Vrabel, who helped us last year with membership meetings, our Group’s environmental film festival, tabling events, helping us with HELEN (the SC national membership and activist data base) and more, was unanimously elected to Ex Comm in 2011. He has become more active with leadership and committees, taking over the Recording Secretary position, upgrading our website, and advising on other IT issues. He writes letters to the RTD and legislators (has had several published) and is active with the Richmond Vegetarian Society as well.

Now, Eric will become the FOJG Membership Chair, and he needs, and we the Ex Comm need the following volunteers to make our monthly meetings run smoothly:

1. 2-3 people to help be “meeters and greeters” at the monthly membership meetings, help bring in the membership table materials, and set up and break down the membership table. Not hard work, and only perquisite is being reliable.

2. Someone to take over entering data into HELEN from sign-in sheets and tabling events. A little training and an hour a month, at most!

3. 1-3 people to help plan and host interactive membership meetings throughout the year. Ex Comm will help with this: select a topic, break into small discussion groups, and summarize people’s experiences, opinions, and passions!

4. Eric will also need someone to take over as the Ex Comm Secretary so he can focus on the website. Hint, we still have one vacant position on our Ex Comm, so if you’d like to volunteer take minutes for a couple of months and see firsthand how your Group is run, have we got a deal for you! Fame! Good Fortune! Good Fellowship!

If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Karie at 804-721-5958 or vaappraisalinstitute@cavtel.net  
Eric at 571-244-1078 or evrabel@yahoo.com

Shakers and Movers, Karie Walker and Eric Vrabel

Blackwater Canoe Trip

Spring and Fall canoe trips with Garrie Rouse, owner of Mattaponi Canoe & Kayak / Flatwater Discoveries are becoming traditions with the FoJGroup, thanks to Tamara Smith! In early April, 15 Sierrans carpooled down to Franklin, to paddle 9 miles of cypress swamp on the Blackwater River beginning at Joyners Bridge. It was a cool and overcast day, but a starkly beautiful trip.

Pictured, standing up, is guide & biologist extraordinaire Garrie Rouse (photo JJZ)
In the past, Sierra Club Calendar Sales have played a major part of the fundraising campaign for the Falls of the James Group. This year, through local contacts, Martin’s Grocery Stores has agreed to feature 2012 Sierra Club Calendars, returning 100% of the Suggested Retail Price to our group! Thanks to several FOJG members who have agreed to help stock our calendar displays, at the Martin’s Stores at:

- Harbor Point (Hull St),
- Midlothian (Courthouse Rd),
- Shortpump (Pump Rd),
- Village (ThreeChopt/Patterson),
- Cary Street (Carytown).

Please visit these stores for your shopping needs and be sure to purchase at least one 2012 Sierra Club Calendar there, to show that there is demand and support in our community. Furthermore, Sierra Club Calendars will also be sold at our fall meetings, The Holiday fundraiser, by contacting tamsmith47@gmail.com, and by using the form printed in this newsletter. TS

No boat? No fishing license? Got a camera? Well, here’s your chance to “Discover the James”. Join us on this special occasion aboard Mike Ostrander’s pontoon cruiser The Discovery Barge II to catch a glimpse of resident bald eagles and other wildlife in their early rising along the James River. In addition to bald eagles we will view a variety of wildlife including hawks, ducks, geese, songbirds, woodpeckers, great blue heron, great egrets, and mammals along the shoreline such as the white tailed deer, fox and river otter, not to mention the surprise of the big fin. Hey, it’s wild out there!! We depart Deep Bottom Boat Landing in Varina at 7 am, cruise the river for two hours, back at 9 am. Space is very limited so don’t delay, make your reservation now. Cost to members is $30, nonmembers $35. (This excursion is partially supported by Falls of the James Group.) So send your reservation, check made to “Sierra Club”, to Tamara Smith, 5314 Dorchester Road, Richmond VA 23225. Please include cell phone number and email address. Hope to see you October 23rd on the James.
General Membership Meetings - Second Wednesday Each Month, September - May, 7 pm.
Free & Public Invited to Attend
Science Museum of Virginia - 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond

For Full Color Newsletters We’re on the Sierra Club Web: http://virginia.sierraclub.org/FOJ
Visit our BLOG on website or http://scfoj.tumblr.com/
For add/drop address changes contact:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968
or Call (415) 977-5653

Put your tax free dollars to work right here in Central Virginia, contribute to The Sierra Club Foundation.

Tax year 2011 may be one of the last years in which taxpayers can deduct donations to tax free organizations such as The Sierra Club Foundation. Past donations to TSCF have supported local Environmental Film Festivals, and more recently our ability to donate copies of Silent Spring by Rachel Carson to a local High School. Please consider helping further our mission by making your donation before the holiday rush in order to secure your tax deduction for 2011. Checks must be made to “The Sierra Club Foundation” with notation “Falls of the James Group Acct GG3552”. Contact Marybeth Mains, Treasurer for further instructions and mailing address. marybeth125@verizon.net

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