

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

Number 158 Newsletter Summer 2010

FLOATING HOMES TOUR 2010

Sunday, September 12th Noon to 5:00 pm

13 houseboats on Fairview Ave E and Westlake Ave N



Photo by Caroline Johnsto



2010 Tour of Floating Homes

By Catherine Major

Once again, the FHA is hosting the biennial tour of houseboats. This event impacts the entire community and is the primary fundraising vehicle to maintain the fund of capital used to deal with legal and political issues affecting our community and environment.

The tour happens Sunday, September 12th from noon to 5:00 pm and is completely planned and executed by the volunteer participation of our members.

Ticket buyers will be treated to an afternoon visit of thirteen floating homes eight on Fairview and five on Westlake. This year's tour celebrates 100 years of houseboat living and features a rich diversity of homes reflecting the spirit and evolution of our historic community, which began in the late 1800s.

The theme of the tour From Funky to Fabulous aptly describes the unique homes and lifestyles of this year's collection of houseboats and their inhabitants who share a love of water, boats and wildlife.

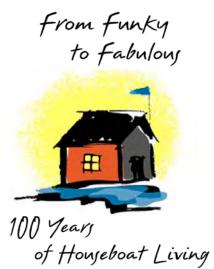
The docks and co-ops with homes on this year's tour are: Westlake side: 2420 cooperative, 2460 Inc. and Nesika Chuck. Fairview side: Log Foundation docks 2017, 2019, 2025, Dox Co-op at 2219, Willow Dock 2321, Tenas Chuck 2339, Roanoke Reef 10 E Roanoke, and Mallard Cove 2600 Fairview.

Mini buses will transport viewers from Terry Pettus Park to Roanoke Reef and to the 2400 block on Westlake Avenue North, and electric boats will shuttle back and

forth from Terry Pettus Park to the 2460 Westlake Avenue North Dock.

Our generous sponsors have underwritten the buses, boats, espresso cart, and many other costs of producing the tour. We thank them all for their continued

We encourage you to share the spirit of our community and volunteer to work a shift on Sunday. There are several choices of positions such as manning a post at a home or a dock or directing viewers and answering questions, etc, and by working one shift, you will receive a complimentary ticket to view the homes during the other shift. Your insight and perspective is part of the greater fabric that defines our community. Please join us, share your stories of life lived in a floating world, and enjoy the



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Newsletter: Marilyn, Jann, Bill



Floating Homes Association Newsletter

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THE FHA BOARD: WE WORK FOR YOU

ENVIRONMENTAL

Bob Bowman, Chair

The Sweep

This year, the Sweep had its biggest turnout ever with 100 boats, 280 volunteers and over 2500 lbs of plastics and other debris recovered from Lake Union, Portage Bay and Union Bay. Many thanks to all the houseboaters who turned out to clean-up our water backyard. The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (PSA) has organized this annual clean-up event for the past eight years. After the Sweep, PSA sent a special thank-you note to the FHA for our continuing financial and volunteer support for the Sweep. The FHA is a prime sponsor of the Sweep in recognition of our responsibility as floating home residents to be stewards of the lake.

The Sweep reminds us that we live on a very fragile urban ecosystem that is dependent on us to keep it as clean as possible. PSA cautions us that plastics are especially dangerous to fish and other wildlife that either come into contact with it or try to eat it. Most important is that plastic never completely breaks down, so the only way to get rid of it is to remove it by hand, whether in the water or on the shoreline.

Other Environmental News

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance Board recently appointed Chris Wilke as PSA Executive Director. FHA has worked with Chris over the last several years in organizing the Sweep. Congratulations and good luck to him in his new responsibilities.



Photo from Chris Wilke

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance Executive Director Chris Wilke.

You Are Invited

2010 Salute to the Sound

Featuring photographer Art Wolfe!

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is holding its annual Salute to the Sound on October 7, 2010 at the Naval Reserve in South Lake Union from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m..

PSA will entice you with the finest wild seafood and shellfish spread that Seattle has to offer -- salmon, oysters, clams, and even geoduck delicacies! The evening begins with a Silent Auction featuring Puget Sound trips, Northwest food & wine, water sports gear and local experiences. Renowned nature photographer, Art Wolfe, will be the featured speaker and show us some of his best shots in Puget Sound. They will cap off the evening with a brief Live Auction featuring the best of Puget Sound!

For additional information email margy@pugetsoundkeeper.org or call 206.297.7002.

Admission is \$100 through Brown Paper Tickets on line at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/
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10 E Roanoke St	1,400,000

Thank you Cathy Major and crew for producing the 2010 Houseboat Tour!

Houseboaters—and landlubbers!—if you have any questions about the figures above or need any real estate help from a long-time resident houseboater, please give me a call.



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If you didn't receive our initial e-alerts,

COMMUNICATIONS

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

Get Connected!

The Communications Committee has been considering a way for FHA members to receive prompt email notification of news stories related to the houseboat community. Some of you have subscribed to notices from The Dock Watch, but many new postings in News and Events on the FHA website have passed unannounced. All that is about to change.

Actually, it has changed! On July 31, you were sent the first e-alert notifying you of a news story of interest to the houseboat community. These brief alerts are sent from the website and provide you with a sentence or two of description. For the more complete story, you are instructed to click on a link to either www.seattlefloatinghomes.org or another link.

Why are we doing this? It has been of concern to this editor that there is a lot of news happening between issues of the newsletter, news that gets lost, or is printed weeks or months late.

Between July 31 and August 23 four ealerts were sent. The alerts provided subscribers with information about an online PI article. No New Houseboats. which included two interviews with floating homes members. Another invited members to an August 14th Eastlake party celebrating the new shore side gardens at Wards Cove and the extension of the Eastlake P-Patch. A Woodinville Weekly story about houseboats and the upcoming tour was posted in mid August. The latest e-alert sent a link to a new history of Seattle's

Historic Houseboats.

and would like to, it's simple to add your email address to News and Events subscriber list. Go to seattlefloatinghomes.org. On the home page, click on News and Events on the left of the screen. Scroll down to Subscribe and click to open. Follow the simple directions to enter your email address. That's it. You can forward these alerts to neighbors. And you are free to

Join us and get connected to your community!

unsubscribe at any time.

LEGISLATIVE

Sheri Greaves, Chair

Our Committee is gearing up for the next legislative session, which starts on the second Monday of January 2011. We have renewed the contract with our lobbyist, Nick Federici, and had a very productive meeting with him earlier this summer to plan for activities related to revisions to the Shoreline Master Plan regarding floating homes. We are not expecting to see anything concrete from the Department of Planning and Development until early next vear. Please see related article by Amalia Walton, Chair of the SMP Task Force.

Also, please remember to check out the FHA website for on-going information or breaking news.

SMP TASK FORCE

By Amalia Walton

The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Task Force continued to work hard over the summer months, meeting with our lobbyist and getting to know the Seattle City Council members who sit on the Committee on the Built Environment (COBE) and will be closely reviewing the proposed SMP updates when they are released by the Department of Planning and Development.

To date we have met with COBE members Sally Bagshaw, Tom Rasmussen and Sally Clark all of whom were generous with their time, encouraged our participation, asked thoughtful questions and expressed interest in following up with the Floating Homes Association when the SMP updates become available.

We received our first bit of publicity in late July when Vanessa Ho of the Post-Intelligencer published a piece on the proposed SMP revisions and the story was picked up by KING 5, KOMO 4, Q13 and KUOW. For the most part, the coverage was well-balanced, informative and a great way to get our story out to the public.

As summer comes to a close, we are preparing for upcoming community tours with Sally Clark, COBE Chairwoman, and Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith, both of whom have expressed interest in seeing our floating neighborhood first-hand.

We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in sending letters to our elected officials or attending upcoming hearings. Email

fha@seattlefloatinghomes.org to

volunteer. Help us show the Council and the Mayor the diversity and character that makes our historic community unique and irreplaceable!



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HOUSEBOATIQUE

Tricia Rendina, Chair

The Houseboatique will have a booth at the Houseboat Tour on September 12. We'll have our most popular items - coffee cups, hats, umbrellas and license plate frames available for purchase. See the full catalog at seattlefloatinghomes.org/houseboatique.

During September, the wine and snack trays - regularly 3 for \$15 are on sale 4 for \$15.

It's not too early to plan for the holidays. If you're not able to stop by during the tour, contact Tricia Rendina at **trendina@yahoo.com** to help you select your Houseboatique gifts.



Photo by Marilyn Robertson Look for the Houseboatique Booth at the 2010 Tour.

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- a sign readable.

 1. The sign should be at least 18" wide by 6" to 8" high.
- 2. The best colors are a white background with black or red lettering.
- 3. The numbers should be at least 5" high, and around 1" thick.
- 4. The number should be placed where it is clearly visible from the front of the dock, as it is being approached from either side.
- 5. Make sure your sign is clean and not faded or otherwise obscured.

Here is an example of a dock with a clear and visible sign (1), and another example of a dock where the sign is missing or not clearly visible (2).

As an interesting side note, most of our houseboats have a number or letter on the front (dock side) so that visitors can locate individual houseboats, but we don't think about having a similar number/letter on the channel side (3). If you want Harbor Patrol to easily identify your houseboat you might want to think about adding a number/letter where they can see it from your channel as well.

If you have any questions about how to make your dock or houseboat more identifiable to Harbor Patrol feel free to contact Larry Logue through the FHA website at seattlefloatinghomes.org/safety, or email llogue@attglobal.net.

Visit **seattlefloatinghomes.org** to view a photo essay of board members trip around the lake with Harbor Patrol.

Long time FHA board member
Tiffany McNamara has resigned, at
least for now. We thank her particularly
for all her work starting and maintaining
the "Dockwatch". Board member
Melissa Ahlers has stepped up to
maintain the Dockwatch until we can
work out a more permanent solution.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Larry Loque, Chair

Protect Your Floating Home Use Street Numbers on Dock End

It is starting to get dark on a beautiful summer evening on your dock. You look out at the houseboat across your channel and suddenly you see a flicker of light through the windows. Your neighbors are not at home, so you wonder, is it a fire? Is it a prowler?

Quickly you call **911**, and then you call Harbor Patrol at **206.684.4071**.

At Harbor Patrol they promptly swing into action, dispatching one of their boats to the area. The officers on the boat know roughly where this dock is, but as they approach the area of your dock they see a clearly marked sign with the street number posted on the end of the dock, and so they are able to find this dock without delays. They rush to the houseboat and find a smoldering fire, which they quickly put out!

This hypothetical story is a success because of your quick thinking and the fast Harbor Patrol response, but it was also a success because your neighbor's dock had a clear sign at the end of the dock identifying the street number. While most Harbor Patrol officers know major landmarks on the lake, it can be difficult to identify individual docks, particularly in the dark or during poor visibility, so those signs identifying your dock street number are a key factor in their ability to respond to emergencies rapidly.

This spring, Sergeant Michael Pugol and Officer Chuck Aller gave FHA board members Marilyn Robertson, Linda Valentine and Larry Logue a tour on a harbor patrol boat. The purpose of the tour was to confirm the status of identification signs on Lake Union and Portage Bay. What they found was most docks do have identification signs but some are missing, some are poorly located and some are so faded or obscured the numbers are difficult to read.

The FHA and Harbor Patrol strongly urge you to check your individual docks and make



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Photo by Marilyn Robertson

1. Example of a dock with a clear and visible



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

2. Example of a dock where the sign is missing or not clearly visible.



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

3. Numbers and letters on the channel side.

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Photo by Marilyn Robertson

2010 Annual meeting: FHA audience enjoys deputy mayor's talk.

Floating Homes Association

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

By Marilyn Robertson

The FHA Annual meeting was held on 22 April at the Puget Sound Yacht Club on North Lake Union. The social hour, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., allowed the more than 100 houseboaters to renew memberships, make donations, chat with neighbors, enjoy a selection of refreshments and shop at the Houseboatique table. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith drew a round of applause after he mentioned he had met with Diane Sugimura, head of DPD who had assured him the City had no thoughts of getting rid of the houseboats. Read complete report on seattlefloatinghomes.org/node/1147.

Saving Lake Union Fireworks Display

By Tricia Rendina

When word spread on April 2 that the Lake Union fireworks was being cancelled, Tricia Rendina from Flo Villa contributed to saving the tradition in honor of her mother Laura who passed away in January. As a result, Evening Magazine interviewed her as part of their June 29 broadcast. "It was a fun experience to be such an integral part of Seattle and the lake. Yet it was bittersweet without my mother on the dock that day to enjoy every burst and boom." If you'd like to see the interview, it is available online at www.king5.com/on-tv/evening-magazine/We-saved-the-Fourth-Tricia-Rendina-97437424.html



Photo by Tricia Rendina

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HOUSEBOAT REFLECTIONS

By Anita Coolidge

From noon on, sun pouring through the skylights becomes giant bright geometrics that inch across my floor and walls, warming and illuminating my day world, my black-as-night cat.

After dusk, the pink street lamp burns, sending a steady shaft of soft light just past my head to decorate the wall behind me: an unsolicited night light, a temporary, faithfully recurring mural, reassurance.

I work, writing, as light streams into my consciousness and words and ideas freely flow.

But what inspires me the most is another kind of light, the kind that happens with the magical meeting of rays of streetlight and darkened, fluid lake surface: Together,

they become spontaneous reflections that instantly make their way to my uncrowded ceiling where in ever-unpredictable rhythms they dance the night away, soundlessly setting off my waking fantasies, my night dreams.

This poem comes from Anita Coolidge, who lived on 2025 and 2019 from 1969 through 1977. During part of that time she was president of Eastlake Community Council, and the houseboat community was fighting the construction of the 5-story condo on Roanoke Bay. She writes that she still misses the neighborhood. She wrote it in 1984 to celebrate houseboat living on Lake Union in the Eastlake Neighborhood of Seattle.

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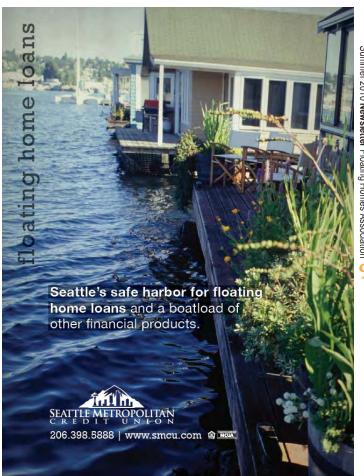
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Aquatic Weeds Are in the News Again

By Diana Forman

Chemical aquatic weed control is back in the news: the permit under which aquatic herbicides can be applied to Washington State waters is due to expire. In 2006 the Washington State Department of Ecology developed the five-year Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit, which manages the chemical control of aquatic nuisance plants including such local favorites as elodea and milfoil. On September 1 Ecology will introduce the department's draft revised permit, along with an accompanying fact sheet, by posting both documents on the department's

website. Visit their website at www.ecy.wa.gov. The posting will also publicize the public comment period, which will last either 30 or 45 days, and announce the dates of the two public workshops and hearings to be held in October - one in Lacev and the other in Spokane. Following the hearings Ecology staff will revise the draft permit to reflect public input before issuing the final version, which will go into effect on March 1, 2011.

Residents of the floating homes community will find much to ponder in the draft general permit, and September is the month to review and comment upon its contents. Some of us will be looking for indications of closer monitoring and improved management of user permits granted to herbicide applicators under the new general permit. Others will hope to see evidence of increased restrictions on the use of chemical controls overall. If you are concerned about the use of chemicals to control aquatic weeds, the public comment period provides the most meaningful opportunity to influence the substance of this general permit - the document that will sanction and direct the application of aquatic herbicides to state waters, without review, until 2016.

Solar Water Heaters

Solar water heaters may be of interest to houseboat owners. Bob Dickey of The Solar Water Group has shared the following information on how this system works and what the benefits are of heating your water with solar energy.

What are the Benefits?

- 1. Conventional Water Heaters Use a lot of Energy. Solar Water **Heaters Save Energy.**
- 2. Solar Water Heaters Do Not Pollute.
- 3. Solar Thermal Collectors are the Most Efficient Form of Solar
 - 4. Economic Benefits within 5

to 15 Years in Savings of Energy Costs and Some Federal Tax Incentives.

- 4. Solar Systems can be Tailored to a Family's Needs, Through Proper Site Evaluation and Powerful Simulation Software.
- 5. Long Term Benefits Include Free Hot Water and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases.
- 6. Solar Water Heaters are Gaining Popularity: According to the Environmental & Energy Study Institute (EESI) there are 1.5 million solar water heaters already in use in homes & business in the USA. Solar water heaters can work in any climate & EESI estimates that 40% of all US

homes have sufficient access to sunlight such that 29 million additional solar water heaters could be installed right now.

You can read the full article on solar water heaters on the FHA website at seattlefloatinghomes.org/ node/1191 and if interested, please contact:

The Solar Water Group www.thesolarwatergroup.com

Bob Dickey 360.301.5968 or

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From Bailey Family

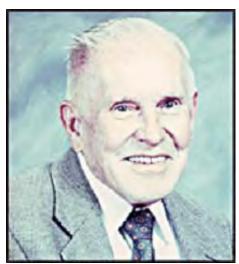
Remembering Molly Bailey

In May the Shelby Dock lost a sparkling and dear friend with the unexpected death of Molly Bailey at age 65. Moving onto the 1213 East Shelby dock with her husband John in 2001, Molly immediately set about making Seattle friends among her neighbors and in the greater community. Friend making was easy for Molly thanks to her warmth and sense of fun, her many interests, her love of people and of bringing them together, her generous spirit, and her delight in houseboat living.

Molly also threw herself into local issues and, for several years, headed a small group of Shelby Dock neighbors in their struggle against the use of toxic chemicals to control aquatic weeds. She served on the Shelby Dock Board of Directors, and a lifelong interest in the sea led her to the SeaDoc Society, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the University of California at Davis, which maintains an office on Orcas Island. The society is dedicated to studying and protecting the sea life and ecosystems of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea - perfect for Molly who completed many naturalist courses and had an enduring affinity for animal life large and small. Serving on the SeaDoc Board brought her great satisfaction. Molly also gloried in her role as a doting and playful mother and grandmother, and her study of Buddhism and participation in meditation retreats further enriched her life and became central to her spiritual growth.

The memorial service for Molly was held on June 2nd in Ketchum, Idaho, where she and John, her husband of 42 years, had purchased a home to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Family and many friends, including three dock neighbors, came from across the country to celebrate Molly's life. Everyone on the Shelby Dock welcomed John back this summer. How sincerely we wish Molly could have been with him. — **Diana Forman**

Please see photo album remembering Molly at seattlefloatinghomes.org/mollybailey



From Hendrickson Family

Al Hendrickson 6/12/1918 - 5/13/2010

Al Hendrickson was Mallard Cove dock's resident gentleman, war hero, family man, and all-around nice guy, with a smile for anyone willing to say "hi". Al was born in South Bend, WA on June 12 1918 and passed away at home on May 13th, 2010. Al lost his wife Dorothy in 1996. Both had been active volunteers in dock governance in their younger years, Al as Treasurer and Dorothy as Secretary.

Al served in the US Army during WWII with the Judge Advocate Corps in Italy, and enjoyed regaling his neighbors with stories from those honorable war years.

The Hendricksons were the second family to purchase a Mallard Cove houseboat when the dock was brand new in 1976. When they learned of the availability while out boating one day, they signed on the spot. They rented their moorage for more than a decade before using Al's expertise as a CPA to help the dock houseboaters convert to cooperative ownership in 1989.

Al was fond of sharing stories and photos of the family vacation home on Guemes Island that he built himself. Al's surviving family, daughters Karen (Follman) and Kristy (Clark), grandsons Jeffrey Follman and Eric Clark, plus little great granddaughter Margo, his pride and joy, all still enjoy the island and houseboating memories that Al and Dorothy left behind. — **Giff Jones**

JUVENILE CHINOOK SALMON STUDY

A Success for the Houseboat Community

Bv Jann McFarland

In April of 2009, spurred by the City's intent to rewrite the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), the FHA commissioned a fish study by Pentec Environmental, a part of Hart Crowser, Inc., to gather facts about the behavior of juvenile Chinook salmon around the floating homes community in Lake Union and Portage Bay. One aspect of the new SMP is to improve

> Pentec scientists' conclusions suggest juvenile Chinook salmon do not occupy the near-shore areas where the floating home complexes are located.

the shoreline environment to help restore Chinook salmon runs. The City said their "best science" showed that over the water structures endanger juvenile Chinook salmon by allowing predator fish to lurk under houseboat floats. The Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) based their conclusions from study results conducted on rivers, Lake Washington, and other areas in the Puget Sound basin. FHA thought the "best science" leap was too great for DPD to impose new restrictive environmental regulations on the houseboat community that could have devastating effects on owners' ability to repair & maintain floats, remodel, and rebuild their houseboats, and no new houseboat moorages would be allowed. Onerous restrictions would also affect real estate values and marketability of floating homes.

Pentec scientists identified sites and permission was obtained from many houseboaters who were willing to allow access to the selected sites around their houseboats and



Photo from Pentec Environmental

The Salmon Study team from Pentec Environmental: left to right Jim Starkes, Associate Fisheries Biologist; Michelle Havey & Brandon Jensen, Staff Fisheries Biologists; and Jon Houghton, PhD, Senior Principal Biologist.



Photo from Pentec Environmenta

Jim Starkes observing the waters off Gas Works Park.

docks. Live minnow traps near shore were used along with visual observation of fish movement from over the water, and snorkeling in deeper water. The sites were visited at different times of day and night during the period from May to mid-July when the salmon migrate through and when the hatcheries in Issaguah release their young salmon.

The scientists compared their study with other recent studies of Lake Union and Portage Bay and their findings were consistent. In one study, in South Lake Union, juvenile salmon stayed in deeper offshore waters - no closer than 20 to 25 meters from over water structures. The behavior of the juvenile salmon in Lake Union may be due to the HISTORI-CALLY high development of near-shore areas and because predators live in the shallower waters. The salmon rarely went near or beneath the structures. Other evidence for staying offshore can be found in the zooplankton samplings taken in a study that show there is more abundance in the offshore areas.

Floating Homes Association Newsletter Summer 2010

Zooplankton provides food for the growing juvenile salmon. In yet another study, higher temperatures nearer the shore indicate the salmon prefer colder deeper open waters.

Pentec scientists' conclusions suggest juvenile Chinook salmon do not occupy the near-shore areas where the floating home complexes are located. Only 1 in 97 observations showed the presence of juvenile Chinook salmon and this was in a wide area of beach and water between a floating home dock and the big over the water condo at the foot of East Lynn Street where the street-end park is located. Further, Lake Union is used by migrating juvenile Chinook salmon as a rearing place and migratory route, but they only stay from a few days to two weeks before swimming on towards the

Ship Canal and Locks to Puget Sound.

Ironically, the City has required new floating home moorages to build expensive docks and beaches especially to attract the juvenile salmon. Fairview Landing, one of the sites studied, was built to the new specs which include leaving more open water next to shore, grated decking on the dock closer to shore, and creation of restored beach areas for juvenile salmon to inhabit the shallow waters on their way through Portage Bay and Lake Union. Pentec observed no juvenile salmon at the Fairview Landing site - instead, the highest number of piscivorous or predator-fish were observed there.

The FHA wants to thank all of the dock associations and individuals who helped make the study possible. The Pentec scientists involved with the FHA study are Jim Starkes, Associate Fisheries Biologist, Jon Houghton, PhD and Senior Principal Fisheries Biologist, and Michelle Havey & Brandon Jensen, Staff Fisheries Biologists. The entire study is available on the FHA website seattlefloatinghomes.org/ SalmonStudy The full study has a lot of back up data and references to the specific studies referred to in the scientists' conclusions as well as informative charts, photos, and bibliography.

Eastlake Community Wards Cove on Lake Union Eastlake P-Patch

CELEBRATE NEW PUBLIC SPACE

By Jean Johnson

On August 14, 2010, a three way partnership: the Eastlake Community Council, the Eastlake P-Patch and Wards Cove on Lake Union, threw a party to celebrate completion of the first phase of the P-Patch expansion and the Wards Cove shoreline enhancement effort. There was music, informational booths, food and a "walking fish" decoration contest with a \$100 local gift certificate award. Mayor McGinn spoke and participated in



Parsons Public Relations Photo

Batucada Yemanja, which includes Janet Yoder, Tui Tui houseboater, perform at Eastlake community party.



Parsons Public Relations Photo

Mayor visits P-Patch garden during Eastlake party.

the ribbon-cutting for both efforts and expressed strong admiration for the beautification of north Fairview, which he noted had changed significantly since he last visited the area. He was quite familiar with the use of sidewalk rubble and SDOT salvage materials in landscaping and noted how impressed he was with the quality of the construction work and use of terraces in the P-Patch.

Please visit www.seattlefloatinghomes.org/ node/1192 for complete story on the P-Patch evolution.

Jean Johnson is a recent volunteer and new gardener in the P-Patch community. She was on the organizing committee for the event, along with the folks from Wards Cove and the ECC.



Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson

Photo by Betty Swift

It is another warm summer morning in the heart of Seattle. Take a walk with me as we amble along Fairview Avenue East and hear the latest news from our houseboat neighbors. Tui Tui Janet Yoder reports that in late June, she & Robby Rudine visited the Iguazu Falls on the Brazilian side. The falls are "like Niagara Falls times ten. Thunderous roar. Water pounding down



Robby and Janet at Iguazu Falls

Photo from Robby Rudine



Feline crewmembers Bella and Lacey.

from multiple directions. Water overlapping water and refracting back into the air in thick mist that makes its own clouds. This is a power place for sure. In addition, we have seen coatis (a bit like raccoons with long snouts), turtles, monkeys, colorful jays called Gralha-picaça, swallows, a toucan, and butterflies of all sorts. And I mean all sorts. The climax of the Argentine side is a hike out a metal walk to the Throat of the Devil, the most dramatic fall, where you feel like you are standing on the edge of the world breathing your last breath."

Mallard Cove Seven houseboats reporting! Giff & Mary Jones, "We spent the month of August sailing in South Puget Sound with feline crewmembers Bella & Lacey. A fall vacation is planned in Acadia National Park near Bar Harbor, ME. Mary, one of three original Eastlake P-Patch Extension planners, is still trying to help finish the project. Volunteers are needed." (See story at seattlefloatinghomes.org/ node/1192.) Bob Berman: "I have just completed converting a studio into a loft/ one bedroom apartment above a barn in the foothills east of Cle Elum. I'm looking for a tenant who can care for the horses and property in return for reduced rent of \$700/mo. There is room to board a horse if interested. It's amazingly beautiful. Must not be afraid of rugged beauty/snow conditions." Mallard Cove Dock and the



Photo by Robby Rudine
You may not realize how close you have to be
to a butterfly with an iPhone to get a shot like
this. You may not know why a butterfly even has
an iPhone! But those antennae aren't for nothing.

FHA welcome new houseboat owners Chris Igielski & Jenette Ramos & 7-year-old daughter, Ariel to the floating homes community. Tim, Melissa & Greta Kate Ahlers say, "Not that much to report – just normal 5-month old baby stuff. She's laughing and smiling a lot. We'll start her on real food soon. She's already been on a number of power boats --sailboats will have to wait till next year probably." Mike & Beata (Rycharski) Massa took their annual summer sailboat cruise. Peggy & Doug Hanel are content to report nothing new happening at their houseboat. Diann Barry & Mark Guy: "Our oldest son, Connor graduated from Whitman College in May with a degree in English. He is now working through Teach for America as a middle school teacher in Las



Photo by Tim Ahler

Melissa and Greta on a boat on in front of Roanoke Reef, with Greta wearing the smallest life preserver we could find (but still too big)?



Photo by Bill Keasler

Karen (Keasler) and Leigh Caplan married August 5, 2010.

Vegas. Teach for America is an organization that recruits new teachers, most just out of college, trains them and places them in high need, low income schools. Our 16-year son Andrew is spending a month at YMCA Camp Orkila on Orcas Island as Counselor In Training. A tough job but someone has to do it."

Wandesforde Karen (Keasler) Caplan swept her parents, Caryl & Bill Keasler, into the 1940s vibe of the celebration of her marriage to Leigh Caplan on the ferry *Skansonia* in north Lake Union. Karen was a houseboat kid on the Wandesforde dock whose room was a glorified corner closet in the family floating home. Karen says, "It seemed fitting



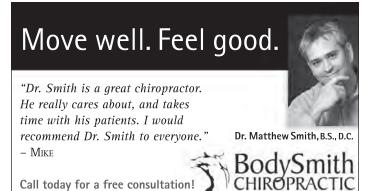
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Tricia dancin' with a band.

after growing up on a houseboat to get married on the water as well. The location, weather, company and everything else helped make the day absolutely perfect."

Flo Villa Recently, Tricia Rendina of Flo Villa traveled to Cuba for three weeks. She and two friends rented a car to drive across the island - the largest in the Caribbean. "The people of Cuba are so gracious and welcoming to Americans. We stayed in private homes known as casas particulares, which is an ideal way to truly

meet people." Tricia says she danced across Cuba. "Everything you've ever heard about the music of that country is true. Everywhere we went - city or village, park or café - there was a band playing and people dancing, whether it was 10 in



Photo by Tricia Rendina Aves y Huevos



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the morning or 10 at night." Next time she visits Cuba though, Tricia says she will focus on Havana and stay out of the rental car. "I want to have more time to explore and dance, less time with deeply rutted roads and flat tires!"

Log Foundation German TV comes to Seattle. Jann McFarland reports that, "In June Michael McGlinn contacted me from Hamburg about working on a TV episode for Mare TV, the German equivalent to our Discovery Channel. He and his crew of two, Thomas Mayr (sound),



Photo by Jann McFarland

Thomas, Michael and Jörg in Mark's boat. Mark & Jamie in backaround.



Thomas Mayr, Tricia Rendina, Michael McGlinn, Jann, and Jörg Hammermeister ham it up.

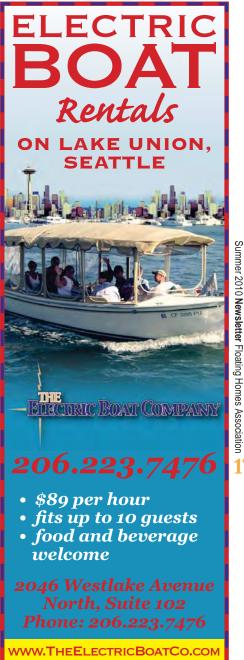
and Jörg Hammermeister (camera) were in Seattle a little over a week and spent most of their time with me learning about the houseboats and interviewing various people on the Lake. They spent the 4th of July with Sid & me and we went out for what ended up being a very wet electric boat ride (who left that canvas top back at the dock?), and they did some silly spontaneous camera shots of people throwing each other off of boats, getting in the middle of one of the mock battles between tall ships, gawking at the performing trapeze girls flying out over the water from a Fairview houseboat, as well as interviewing



Photo by Jann McFarland

Bela Blue at 8 weeks

various folks getting ready to celebrate the 4th. After a picnic supper we trooped over to a couple of parties that we had arranged to crash and then back to visit new neighbors in the end houseboat on 2025, Rick Weller & Margaret Allen and to enjoy a dry viewing point of the fireworks. After the fireworks, we were all hosted by Debbie Woodbury & Ren Nanstaad for strawberry shortcake and a fancy 4th of July torte provided by the film crew. Among those interviewed were Jason Fitschen & Robin Clewley, Jamie Thurner & Mark Sanderson (who took the crew out on the lake in his runabout) from Log Foundation; Tricia Rendina, Elliott Wolf & Ivana





Four Mukilteo Boats on Portage Bay.

Walton & daughter, Lilian (who were putting up flags for the 4th) from Flo Villa: Bob West and friends from the Wandesforde Dock; and the partying crew from 2025 dock. They also later interviewed Dick Wagner at The Center for Wooden Boats. When the crew left Seattle, they were going to look for geoduck rustlers with some folks up north. It will be interesting to see the episode - we are promised a DVD when it is finished. Sid & I were finally

Durinovic-Bello, Amalia

ready to get a new kitty and playmate for Sugar Bear and found this cute little guy out in Fall City he was exactly 8 weeks old - he would run up our jeans to get held and it was pretty cute, till he ran up my bare legs and scratched the heck out of me earning him the name

Few places in the world offer a unique lifestyle in a community on the water as the one that we enjoy. Every day we just have to look out of our windows and see the ripples on the water to remind us how lucky we are ...

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Bela for Bela Lugosi and his depiction of Count Dracula. Full name is Bela Blue. Big brother Sugar Bear still thinks of him as an appetizer.

Center for Wooden Boats isn't usually on our tour, but let's stop here and check out the boats and displays.

Long time Portage Bay houseboaters,

Sheri & Steve Greaves, are often seen cruising their 1946 18' outboard cedar plank on oak frame Mukilteo Boat on Portage Bay and Lake Union. Steve recently completed a monograph for the Center for Wooden Boats on the history and building of the Mukilteo Boat. These boats were built for the recreational fishing trade by three generations of the Losvar

family and rented out of the Mukilteo Boat House in Mukilteo, Washington, from 1905 to 1970. Most were burned when they got too old for rental service and today only a handful of the distinctive boats survive. At the Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival in

July, the monograph was officially dedicated to the Center for Wooden Boats and accepted by founder, and long time Westlake houseboater, Dick Wagner. On hand for the ceremony were many generations of the Losvar family and three restored Mukilteo Boats. Art Losvar, grandson of the original builder of the Mukilteo Boat, was present and signed copies of the monograph. Copies of the 24 page monograph are available for sale from the Center for Wooden Boats at South Lake Union.

What luck, We've run into Sheri and Steve. who suggest we ride with them, down the west side of Lake Union and into Portage Bay.

2420 Westlake At our first stop, Ann Bassetti offers us an update on doings at 2420 Westlake. "There was a 'Chance' sighting when Mark Koenig & Erin Roche came through town. (That is the name of their inquisitive and wonder-



Center for Wooden Boats Founder, Dick Wagner (2nd from right), presents a framed copy of the monograph cover to Mukilteo Boat builder Art Losvar (right) while Art's three sons (from left, Tom, Dave, and Jim) look on. In the background are two restored Mukilteo Boats.

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ful 2-year-old.) All on the dock are disappointed they are extending their roots in Vermont, and now trying to sell their houseboat here. Might be a little small with a rambunctious kidlet, though. We were also sad when Kevin McCarthy & Madeline Binkley moved to land, as soon as 1-year-old Sophia started to walk. We certainly understand the fear, but that's also one of the gaps of houseboat life - not many kids! Everyone is delighted, however, with their renter, Patricia Kelly. A newly graduated oral surgeon, she is joining Dr. Tom Hohl's practice. In the first few months, it's clear Patricia will be a lively addition to the houseboat social scene! We only briefly met another new renter -Mike Crystal. An environmental engineer, he had barely moved in when he had to leave for a few weeks in the Gulf of Mexico. You might be able to think of some environmental concerns down there right now. Even in his first couple weeks, Mike fit right in with the end-of-dock Duck Dodge watchers. Big congratulations are in order for Daniel Wigdor, newly appointed to the University of Toronto faculty. His specialty is in multi-touch computer interfaces (the iPhone has 2 touches); and gestures, as

interpreted by computers. But, DARN! -

that means he and Amy MacLearn will be

moving. We are sorry to see that Kathleen Kelley & Chuck Arnold are leaving. Chuck got a job in England (he works for Oracle), which sounds like a fun way to end a long career. They will return to their house in Tacoma after their European adventure. Waaaah - We like them a lot and don't want them to leave. The 2420 Soup Kitchen will not be the same without them! As a result of all this turmoil, two houses are for rent, and one is for sale. Come join us; this is a very friendly dock."

Dock reporter for 2466 and 2460 Westlake, Marty Greer, shares their summer news and shows off several photos. "Bill & Peggy Schickler (2466 WL) pulled off another perfect wedding this summer, this time for daughter Melissa who got married in June at Roche Harbor. As they did last year for sister Megan's wedding, the dock brought out the romance flags for the occasion to welcome out-of-town guests and friends. Marty Greer took a group of watercolor painters to Tuscany in June and the highlight of the trip was a visit with her next door neighbors from 2466 WL, Sheryl & Rob Turping, at their 'other' home outside Cortona. Rob has built a fabulous outdoor pizza oven and stoked it up to serve lunch to the whole group. We're hoping he'll figure out how to build one on the dock when they return to their floating home. If this is August, that determined swimmer in the

canal must be Barrie Taraday (2466 WL), training for yet another Danskin triathlon that makes 7! Whew, she's tough! Libby Kutcipal (2466 WL) finished her first half IRONMAN at Lake Chelan - that's a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike, and 13.1 mile run all in 92 degree heat! Meanwhile, most houseboats on the two 2460 co-op docks have spent the summer spiffin' things up in anticipation of the houseboat tour - we have several new roofs and lots of fresh paint and varnish. Once again Christy Robinson (2466 WL) has managed to produce lots and lots of sweet tomatoes, which she starts from seed in her bay window. Unfortunately she is not the only one who finds them delicious. Voracious rats (we think) turned the crop into a health hazard and the crop - not the rats - has been eradicated. Solo Chappelle, the blond bomber of 2466 Westlake, has her own "floatie", which gets her one jump closer when the coveted yellow ball is thrown far into the lake. The floating home of this 'queen of retrievers' will be on the Floating Homes Tour this year."

Lees Moorings Karen Eckhart sends "Greetings from Lee's Moorings in the heart of Fremont-by-the-Lake! The fun people on our dock range in age from 6 to 89! We recently welcomed a new family to our dock, Tom & Rose Hesselbrock and their daughter, Caleigh, who has just graduated from high school! The

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Wedding Flags

Hesselbrocks have jumped right into action and helped at our annual Garage Sweep, which included about 75 percent of the dock! Lots of fun, and we now have a clean garage! Unfortunately, we recently had a rash of bicycle thefts from our garage which was darned rude. Also, sad to report our beautiful Wood ducks have disappeared and we have only had a smattering of Mallards and ducklings this summer."

3146 Portage Bay Place Pam Stevens and Ellyn Swanson of 3146 Portage Bay Place held their 10th Annual Greek Dinner on the evening of 31 July. The dinner coincided with a visit from Ellyn's daughter, Jenni Swanson Vorhees. Other guests included family and friends of Pam and Ellyn. The party was held in the beautiful shore side gardens of 3146.

Willow Cove Report on saying goodbye to Lucy by Joyce Black. "All of us at Willow Cove are grieving the loss of our wonderful dog resident, a Bull Mastiff, Lucy. She has been a friend to all of us,

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Sheryl and Rob Turping make Pizza in Cortona.

the garden of Temple de Hirsch Sinai, thoughtfully providing their guests with parasols. Mahlon and Page are both educators and will wait to take their honeymoon until school breaks coincide. They are currently living on the Eastside while their houseboat rebuild is underway. Sadly it will soon be time to say good-bye to Dorothy & Calvin Echodu, who have lived at #5 for the past three years with son Devin and baby daughter Ellie Rose. In October of 2008, Ellie was born at home in the family houseboat and has been the apple of everyone's eye ever since. The Echodu family will be moving to Shoreline not only to house their growing family but also to garage Devin's growing collection of road and dirt bikes. Neighbors will especially miss regular contact with our youngest dock resident, but everyone on the dock wishes the entire Echodu family well. Last January happy news came from Terry Bratvold & Karen Collier, who announced their engagement

making us smile in sun or rain. Lucy was only seven years old and her parents Loren & Rob are heartbroken. parents Loren & ROD are near brond.

They had a farewell party for Lucy on Sunday, July 18th so all of Lucy's friends could see her and bring her favorite doggie snacks and get that last Lucy full face kiss. Lucy had bone cancer and the alternative to a peaceful leaving with family was to take off her leg and other painful interventions. We will miss her so much. Willow Cove won't be the same."

wys, we've had our share of happen and sad news on the Shelby Dock recently." (Please see "Port Molly Po") Shelby Dock Diana Forman says, "We've had our share of happy recently." (Please see "Remembering Molly Bailey" elsewhere in this newsletter and in a photo essay on www.seattlefloatinghomes.com) "On the happy side we've celebrated two marriages in the last year. Rob Elleman & Carrie Lee, long-time housesitters, were married last fall in Carrie's home state of Maine. Rob alone, and then Rob and Carrie, have been welcome fixtures on Shelby Dock for several years and will continue to housesit for John Bailey for a time while working on their own newly purchased home in Ravenna. In July Mahlon Meyer & Page Perey were married in



Photo by Rick Miner

Solo Chappelle rides a wave



Big Greek Dinner on Portage Bay

at the Shelby Dock Annual Meeting! Terry has provided a first-hand report of their romance, rekindled after a 47 year separation.

'Sumner High School sweethearts Terry Bratvold and Karen Collier planned on marrying after high school in 1962. Unfortunately, meddling mothers caused their breakup. After no contact for 47 years, Facebook brought them together again in April of last year. After dozens of emails and many hours of phone calls, they knew they must get together in person. In June Terry flew to visit Karen at her beautiful home in Arizona. Their second "first kiss" brought back a flood of good memories. During two more trips here and there, love bloomed again. They are happy to report that Karen moved to the Shelby Dock in August, 2009, and retired from nursing; Terry is now working two days a week. Karen loves Seattle, floating home living and boating. Terry and Karen are wonderfully happy together. They became engaged December 24th and will be married soon.'

To receive a copy of their complete story with pictures Terry invites readers to email him at **Tbrat8@comcast.net**.'

It is on such a happy note we say farewell to Sheri & Steve, and end our Summer Waterlog tour of Lake Union and Portage Bay.

Visit Waterlog on **seattlefloatinghomes.org/waterlog**Thanks to all contributors for great stories and super photos.
Comments: email Marilyn at **isobel.rob@gmail.com**



Photo from Loren and Rob Loren Rofkahr and Rob Van Oss with Lucy.



Photo by Art Bisig

Terry Bratvold and Karen Collier overlooking Shelby Waterway and their home.

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