



FOUNDED 1962

## FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION



2329 Fairview Avenue East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone: 325-1132

Number 125

*Newsletter*

Spring 1995

### The Floating Homes Association's *33rd Annual* **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday, April 27, 1995 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Tye Yacht Club  
3229 Fairview Avenue East

*Fun! Information! Refreshments!*

- Update on State Leases
- Houseboat Day 1995 — Portage Bay
- The Year in Review
- Executive Board Election
- Urban Wildlife Expert (not finalized)
- Floating Homes Cookbook On Sale

*See You There!!*

## Of Dollars and Leases

by Bill Keasler

We have made substantial progress on state leases since fall. The Commissioner of Public Lands, Jennifer Belcher, has now given us a commitment, in writing, to draft model lease language specifically for floating homes, which acknowledges that residential uses are substantially different from commercial uses.

In a recent meeting in Olympia with our lobbyist, our lawyer, members of our legislative delegation and her own staff, Commissioner Belcher also agreed that we should not be responsible for hazardous waste we didn't create and that the standard term for our leases should be 30 years instead of the current twelve. Her stated goal is to implement these agreements before the end of 1995.

So far, all we have are promises, but this is a far cry from the cold shoulder we were getting just last November. We owe our gratitude, especially, to our legislators, Reps. Frank Chopp (D-43) and Pat Thibaudeau (D-43) and Sens. Jeanne Kohl (D-36) and Cal Anderson (D-43). Also without the efforts of our tireless Office Manager, Sheri Gotay,

*Continued on page 2...*

## NEWSLETTER 2

*Leases, continued from page 1*

egging us along and always coming up with just the right background research for the moment at hand, none of it would have happened.

Finally, but certainly not least, we have had wonderful professional representation. Both our attorney, Peter Eglick, and our lobbyist, Mike Ryherd, have engaged our issue with energy, commitment and imagination. They are both very, very good at what they do. But they are not cheap.

We estimate that our legal and lobbying expenses for the four months of the current legislative session will end up somewhere in the \$5,000 - \$7,000 range. This is peanuts compared to the value of the leases we are dealing with, but it's a huge amount for a volunteer community organization.

The Association needs your help now. Send in a substantial donation. Work on the tour. Sell lots of cookbooks.



photo by Phil H. Webber

**TEAM EFFORT ON LEASE ISSUE — (Left to right) FHA lobbyist Mike Ryherd; Sheri Gotay, FHA Office Manager; Bill Keasler, FHA president, and attorney Peter Eglick updated a public gathering of state aquatic lands lessees on February 7 at the Hydro House on Eastlake Avenue. Two of the main issues are length of lease and hazardous waste liability.**

## IS THERE A FIREBOAT IN OUR FUTURE?

There's good news and not so good news on the subject of whether a fireboat is going to be assigned to the lakes - Union and Portage.

"No," says Mario Trevino, Chief Support Services for the Seattle Fire Department. "There's no present plan to bring a fireboat into the lakes."

But there are reassuring words. Explains Trevino: "The SFD prides itself on being anywhere to fight a fire within four minutes.

Backing that up is the knowledge that Harbor Patrol boats automatically respond to fire calls heard over their police and fire frequencies. These boats are equipped with fire pumps, hoses and small water cannons known as monitors.

*(If you have comments on this, call the FHA office at 325-1132.)*

### Floating Homes Association Board

*President:* Bill Keasler (2037 FV)

*Vice President:* Marty Alexander  
(2466 WL)

*Treas:* Ed Waddington/Julia Forbes  
(2339 FV)

*Secretary:* June Fauchald (2466 WL)

#### TRUSTEES:

Peggy Stockley (2331 FV)

Phil Webber (2466 WL)

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Ann Bassetti (2420 WL)

Colleen Hogan-Taylor  
(2822 Boyer Ave E)

Frank Koterba (2466 WL)

Bob Lane (10 E Roanoke)

Jann McFarland (2025 FV)

Susan Susor (1409 N.E. Boat St.)

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Sheri Gotay

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Peggy Stockley, editor 329-7973

John Nelson, production

#### Office Hours

**1-5 Wednesdays and Thursdays**  
(The Floating Homes Association office is located at 2329 FV, roughly two blocks north of Lynn Street. Phone 325-1132)

This summer we are going to prep/paint the exterior of the FHA office. It will be a cinch if we have a team effort. If you're interested, call the office, 325-1132.

# HOUSEBOAT DAY ON PORTAGE BAY

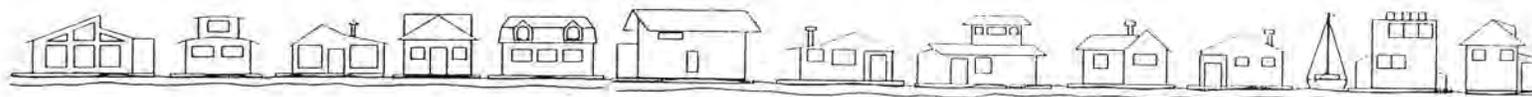
**Sunday, April 30, 1995 Noon-5 p.m. Tickets: \$10**

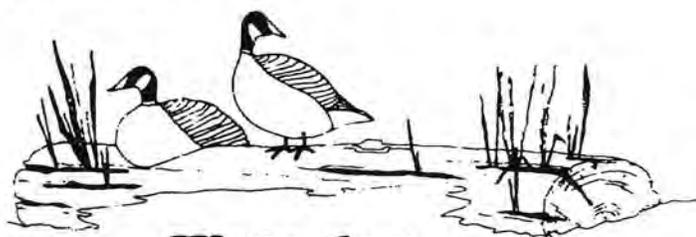
The 1995 Houseboat Tour features nine houses on Portage Bay combined with the opportunity to tour the George Pocock Memorial Rowing Center and a glimpse of the Shelby Street End Park thrown in for good measure. This is the 10th tour sponsored as a fund-raiser by the Floating Homes Association.

There's going to be t-shirts, etc. sold at the Pocock Center, a latte cart along the way, houseboater-baked sweets plus the rare chance to see firsthand one of our least-visible floating neighborhoods.

Your help is needed on tour day. Please call Susan Susor, 632-1397, or the office at 325-1132, if you can volunteer some time. We need people as hosts in the houses themselves, help in ticket selling, with signage, refreshments, logistics, troubleshooters (or as we say in houseboatese — floaters.) One of the best things you can do is sell tickets to people who are not part of the lifestyle we know and love. Think about promoting it at your place of business or with friends in the region and expedite it for them by getting the tickets ahead of time. Cash, checks, MC/VISA — all ok.

Once again, the tour is Sunday, April 30, from noon-5 on Portage Bay. People can "do" the tour anyway they want but best is to begin at the Pocock Rowing Center (under the University Bridge) and finish at Shelby Street. Parking is under the freeway across from the "Pocock." If you get tired, a shuttle bus will run continuously from Boyer & Shelby back to the parking lot.





## Waterlog

by Peggy Stockley

Houseboater Sheri Lockwood, humorist and certified eccentric who has long edited Waterlog is spending a year in Poland. As editor pro-tem, I can't wait for her return. In the meantime, April is a big month for the houseboat community. We have our annual meeting on April 27 at the Tye Yacht Club and, on April 30, we have our 1995 Houseboat Tour on Portage Bay. This is our MAJOR fundraiser. Profits go towards monitoring issues that affect the lakes on which we live and the houseboat lifestyle we have chosen. Hear more at the meeting and if you can volunteer on tour day, call Susan Susor at 632-1397 or the office at 325-1132.

### ANCHORS AWEIGH

Keith & Laurie Lorence who have lived at 2019 FV for 18 years are building a 52-foot wooden sailboat in Portland and plan to move aboard within the year. Laurie describes it as a racing hull but with washer and dryer. Son, Ryan, a 6th grader, will be homeschooled for awhile. He'll be in good hands since Laurie is a teacher at Shoreline Community College in the area of middle school education ... Marty & Bob Alexander (2466 WL) spent some time in New Zealand as did K. and Teresa Jones (Mallard Cove) as part of the 4th exchange between the Seattle Yacht Club and the Royal Akarana Yacht Club in Auckland. K. had a special reunion with one of his sons in Australia as part of the trip Down Under. Both couples sailed the Auckland waters and both rave about the beauty of the country and the fine wines. (Take note: Tom Stockley) ... Jeri Callahan (2331 FV) returns to Texas Chuck after a winter in Mexico ... Ti Tice & Wendy Paul (2339 FV) had a memorable trip to South Africa ... Steve Greaves & Sheri Gotay (3110 PBPE) are back from a trip to Miami, Florida, where Steve was inducted into the American Power Boat Association Hall of Champions. Steve races limited outboard hydroplanes and runabouts in the Professional Outboard division of the APBA. Sheri does her part by officiating at most of the races ... Tru Ambrose (3110 PBPE) visited her family in Wurzburg, Germany, and attended the Fasching (like Mardi Gras) festivities.

### YOU SAY ONION, I SAY UNION

A sign-making business on the shore of Lake Union did a mail promotion emphasizing their accuracy and creativity. Undoubtedly, true. But it was worth a grin at least when

you read their return address "on the north shore of Lake Onion."

### FLORA & FAUNA

Ann Bassetti (2420 WL) saw a seal or sea lion not far off her dock recently in the flat of early morning. What might have been a log kept moving and then dove. Ann grabbed binoculars and waited until it surfaced to verify her sighting ... There's a remarkable bird story on the same dock (2420 WL) that began with Maggie Bassetti who was houseboat sitting when she saw a brilliant blue bird on an adjacent float that turned out to be a parakeet. Happens that Tim & Carol Kane who live on the dock own a parakeet but it wasn't theirs. One thing led to another so now the two little parakeets, Rachel and Rocky, are perched side-by-side enjoying life on a houseboat ... Colleen Hogan-Taylor (2822 Boyer Ave. E) saw a big river otter the other day sitting on a raft next to her Portage Bay houseboat.

Colleen also shed some light on the majestic white swans that have been serenely swimming around Lake Union this year. She says they come from the other side of the Montlake Cut and have been part of Portage Bay life for a number of years. According to her bird book, they are



Waterlog continued...

Polish mute swans. If anyone else has other information, call me (Peggy Stockley) at 329-7973 ... Tom & Susan Susor (1409 NE Boat St.) report that, for the 8th year, pied-billed grebes are building a nest at the head of their dock. Tom has rebuilt the little platform they use for nesting purposes. Susan says she still glimpses the blue heron on occasion ...

**LOST BUT FLOATING**

A bright yellow inflatable boat — the Challenger 400 — disappeared from the dock at 2017 FV sometime in mid-February. Call Elissa at 323-7644. She'd sure like it returned.

**FLOTSAM & JETSAM**

Bob Lilly (2331 FV) was quoted and photographed in the prestigious New York-published "Garden Design" magazine (April/May issue) in an article on the Bellevue Botanical Garden's perennial border. Bob is one of its designers ... Polly & Bob Lane (Roanoke Reef) are reveling in the wonders of being grandparents to twin daughters born to their son, Doug, and his wife, Michelle. Katrina Louise entered the world at 7 lb. 4 oz. while Kristen Marie hit the scales at 7 lb.1 oz. ... Leonard Johnston (2466 WL) is home from the hospital and doing fine. His neighbors welcome him back ...

**JUST THE FACTS...**

Houseboater Jeri Callahan (2331FV) and Donald Wysocki are writing a book about floating homes. Donald did his master's thesis in geography on "Gentrification of Bohemia." Together, they hope to convey our history with its strong sense of community and rich variety of residents by profiling a representative sample of houseboat denizens. If you have interesting historical artifacts, exceptional photos and/or anecdotes, call Jeri or Donald at 322-9157

8/91



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Help preserve and protect Seattle's colorful houseboat colony.  
Join the Floating Homes Association today!

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ HB#: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Condo/CoOp Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Houseboat:    Own        Rent        Regular Household \$36        New      
 Moorage:    Own        Rent        Retired Household \$24        Renewal   

*The Association's Legal Fund Needs your support also. Donations of \$50 or more are tax deductible! Make your SEPARATE check payable to SCCCF/FHA and mail today!*

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the FHA Legal Fund.

Floating Homes Association Inc. 2329 Fairview Avenue East Seattle, WA 98102 Telephone 325-1132

# FHA BACKS TWO NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

## FAIRVIEW AVE EAST TRAFFIC CALMING

The Floating Homes Association has joined the Eastlake Community Council in going for a City Neighborhood Matching Fund grant to design and install improvements to calm traffic along Fairview between E. Newton and E. Roanoke. Houseboater Mary Sue Galvin of the Log Foundation prepared the grant request. The goal is a better balance between the automobile and those on foot.

Results from the 1994 Eastlake Transportation Survey indicated neighborhood workers and residents worried more about Fairview than for Eastlake Avenue itself. Highest concern was for a walking/bicycle path and next highest was pedestrian safety. For starters, the Seattle Engineering Dept. plans to construct a pedestrian walkway this summer on Fairview from its intersection at the old steam plant (now Zymogenetics) north to Newton.

Not long ago, Fairview was honored in the "Streets That Work" competition sponsored by the Seattle Design Commission. About half of FHA members reside or do business on Fairview. The proposed street redesign would build on what was described as the "unique and complex character of the area" and assure safety for pedestrians and traffic on this working lakeside street.

## BRIGHTWATER

The other FHA grant request is for an ongoing Lake Union cleanup project jointly with the Center for Wooden Boats. Called Brightwater, the effort would concentrate on keeping the surface water free of floating trash.

As described in the proposal, prevailing winds of spring, summer and fall bring everything afloat from the Ship Canal and Portage Bay into Lake Union. The idea is to corral and remove it before it settles under docks and houseboats etc.. The grant would pay for a boat and some basic equipment like a portable floating boom, oil absorbent pads, scoopers, portable containers, foul weather gear, environmentally acceptable cleaning supplies and a dumpster.

No one notices the debris more than CWB at the south end of Lake Union. "We've picked up tons of stuff," says director Dick Wagner, "but we can do a lot more. It's time to stop finger-pointing over who is creating the problem and clean it up on a regular basis."

A big part of both the clean water project and the Fairview street redesign is involvement of volunteers from the communities involved. That's no problem at CWB where volunteers do everything. And, on Fairview, the steering committee is comprised of volunteers representing the interests of residents and businesses.

---

## CSO PROJECT

The long-awaited combined sewer outfall (CSO) cleanup of Lake Union is progressing. There is now an estimated timeline. The project will go out for bid in July and, hopefully, be awarded in August with work to begin in October. Estimated length of the construction period is one year. Not every street in the area will be disrupted every minute of every day, but there will be an impact, especially on parking.

Carol Eychaner, neighborhood resident and watchdog over the project is pleased that the storm waters and sewer will be enclosed in one pipe. "This is not always done," she notes, "and it saves a lot of expense."



## Lilly Pad

by Bob Lilly

*(Ed. Note: My neighbor Bob Lilly (2331 FV) has lived on his houseboat on the Tenas Chuck Moorage for over 23 years and knows what grows and what doesn't in a garden afloat. Professionally, he's with Charles Wilson Company, brokers and sales reps of perennials for growers. He's also one of the principal designers of the NW Perennial Alliance Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. For two years in a row, he's designed and installed the Arboretum Foundation Display Garden at the NW Flower & Garden Show.)*

An early spring and those pesky geese started in December here at Tenas Chuck - our best solution still seems to be a bunch of green bamboo stakes stuck in the pots & planters. Watch out for chickweed, grasses & white

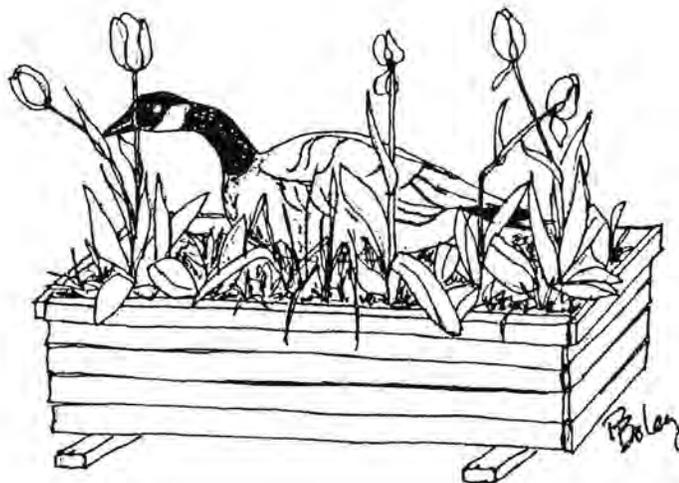
tags, it seems to attract them even more. Also, I've been doing slug patrol — a mild winter makes this even more important. Lift every pot and toss those slugs away - a sinking slug is a joy to behold.

With mild weather, we can plant early with primroses, pansies, pots of bulbs like tulips, hyacinths & tete-a-tete daffodils, ivy for greenery and even malcoides (or fairy) primroses and cyclamen although these last two are temporary and not hardy. Warm weather has made the ornamental cabbages bolt so it's time to compost or recycle. Be sure to replant right away with new spring color or the cats will cultivate your garden. The best method to keep cats at bay is to plant full — it works every time.

If you have early spring flowering shrubs like forsythia, be sure to prune just after bloom. It's the best way to insure good flowering the following spring. This is also a good time to re-pot your trees and shrubs. You can either root prune about one-fifth of the old roots off and replant in the same pot or step up to a larger pot. If you do the latter, I recommend taking off at least 3" of the soil/roots at the bottom of the pot. In most cases, these roots are of poor quality or dead or even rotten. You can then replace this volume with new soil.

Spring rains are on the way so be sure your pots are not standing in saucers full of water — ok in summer but a sure way to rot roots in spring.

Soon it will be geranium and petunia season — if the geese don't win!



Floating Homes Association  
2329 Fairview Ave. E.  
Seattle, WA 98102

## “Floating Kitchens” Order Form

Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle WA 98102

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of “Floating Kitchens”

at \$14.95 per copy: \_\_\_\_\_

8.2% sales tax at \$1.23 per copy: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping and handling at \$2.00 per copy: \_\_\_\_\_

(Omit shipping charge if you prefer to pick up books at the FHA office)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Floating Homes Association and mail to above address.

# HOUSEBOAT TOUR!!

SUNDAY

APRIL 30, 1995

NOON TO 5 P.M.



*For tickets and information, call the Floating Homes Association at 325-1132, or order by mail using the coupon below. Mail order with payment to FHA, 2329 Fairview Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102, before April 23, 1995.*

---

## ORDER FORM FOR TOUR TICKETS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

VISA or MC (circle one): Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_