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FLOATING HOMES
ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 144

Newsletter

SPRING 2004



Beth's Birds
'Fierce Heron'

Annual Meeting

April 29, 7-9 PM, Pocock Center

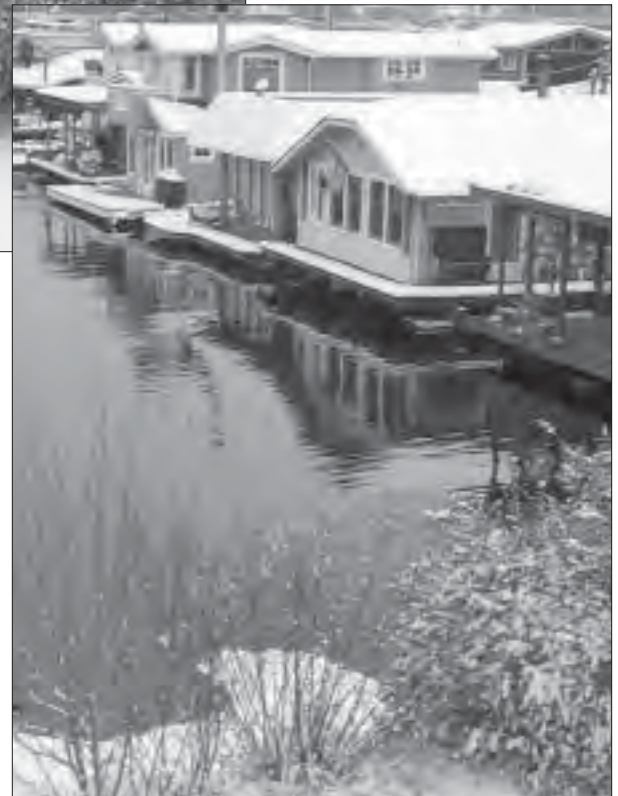
Right of First Refusal Repealed

Dick Wagner on Terry Pettus

COLD SNAP!

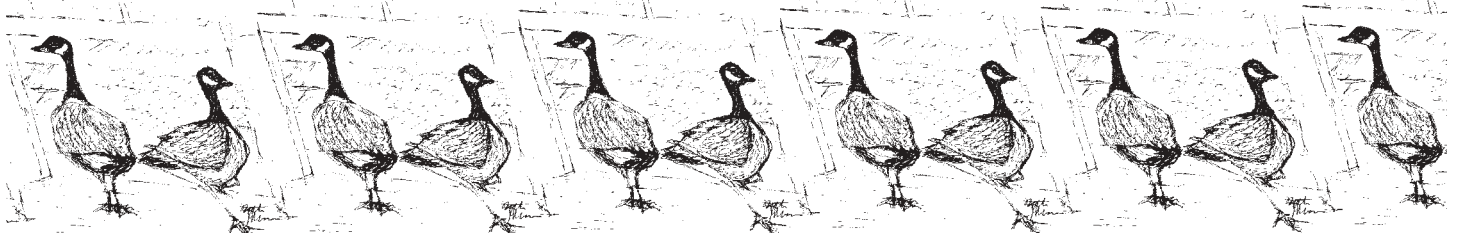


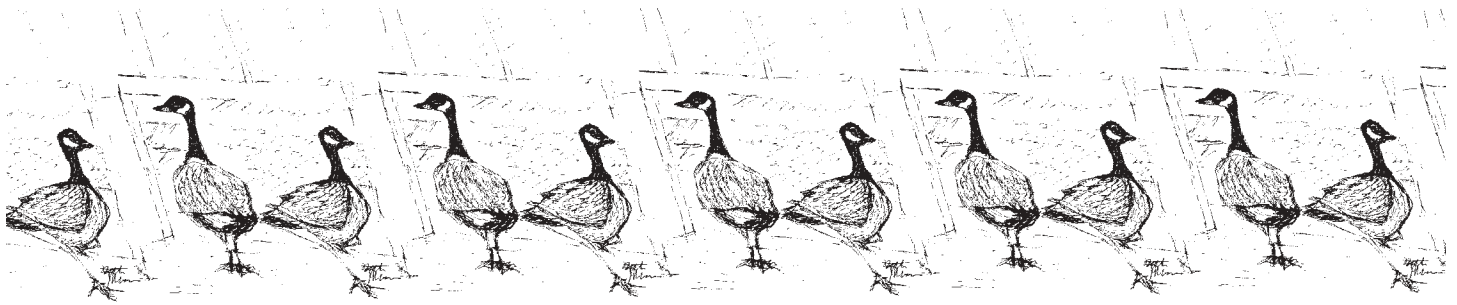
Photos by Betty Swift



We only got a little nip of Winter this year, but it was enough for Betty Swift to snap off a couple shots of her own. These are of Portage Bay, looking east.

Beth's Birds. The two herons staking out the ends of this *Newsletter*, the gaggle of rascals here and the Scaups on page 11 are the work of Fairview houseboater Beth Means. Beth's sketches





reflect a gentle obsession with the wildlife around her and a sharp eye for its quirky nature. Her work has been a feature of the *Newsletter* for many years and we're delighted to receive this latest set of drawings. Thanks again, Beth.

The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E
Seattle, WA 98102

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Betty Swift (1213 E Shelby)

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Office Manager: Jann McFarland

Phone: 325-1132 / 323-3489

Office Hours:

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Messages Monitored:

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Newsletter: Jann, Emily,

Marilyn Robertson,

Jan, Bill

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Winter 2004



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Fundraising Melissa Ahlers, Chair

2004 HOUSEBOAT TOUR

Sunday, September 12th, Noon - 5PM

15 Homes Open
East & West Lake Union

This is the year for our favorite community activity – The Houseboat Tour! The 2004 Houseboat Tour will take place on Sunday, September 12th from Noon – 5:00 p.m. Fifteen homes will be open on East and West Lake Union showing off our vibrant and diverse community. Have any good ideas? Would you like to be involved? Please contact Melissa Ahlers to join the planning committee or if you just have some good ideas for the tour... melissa@ahlers.org or 206.709.9376



Legislative & Legal Sheri Greaves, Chair

Right of First Refusal Repealed

**City Council votes April 8 on new ordinance
designed to plug a few of the gaps**

With a week's notice to the public in late February, the Seattle City Council repealed the Floating Homes "Equity Ordinance" Right of First Refusal (ROFR) provisions. This rather startling move was in conjunction with the repeal of two other Seattle ROFR ordinances, one involving mobile homes and the other converted apartment buildings. The city Law Department claimed that a Washington Supreme Court decision made them all illegal and that repeal was required to eliminate the city's exposure to claims arising from complying with them. The Council heard the Law Department say that the appropriate hearing and notice requirements had been met two years ago and that all the Council had left to do was vote.

So, the floating homes' ROFR finally got swept away by a wave that has taken every ROFR ordinance in the state. Councilmember Judy Nicastro apparently managed to delay the inevitable by sitting on the bill for a couple of years. But when she was defeated in the last election, it didn't take long for the nervous lawyers in the Law Department to bring it up again.

Peter Steinbrueck, the Councilmember now in charge of Land Use issues, says he wants to come up with replacement language as soon as possible. The Law Department has presented a bill based on FHA suggestions submitted in 2002. While they've tweaked things a bit, the essence of it is what the FHA proposed then.

One of the effects of ROFR was to make details of a dock sale visible so that "sweetheart" deals designed to provide a basis for a rent hike were discouraged. The new bill allows an appeal to the Hearing Examiner if the rent is jacked up as the result of a sale.

The other main provision is a Notice of Sale requirement triggered by some tangible step toward selling the dock, such as a listing agreement. The question at this writing is how long the notice should be. The Law Department Language is 60 days. The FHA is proposing 180 days.

The new ordinance may not have the "take it to the bank" authority of the old ROFR, but from a practical standpoint, it does give tenants a chance to do what they would have to do anyway, which is make a highly motivated offer. And it preserves the secondary effect ROFR had of discouraging sweetheart deals.

At this writing, the bill is due for a vote on April 8. Expect an update at the Annual Meeting. – **Bill Keasler**

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Association Standing Committee Reports

Membership & Communications

Emily Hine, Chair

PLEASE JOIN US

The Floating Homes Association meets just once a year to communicate vital information to all Floating Home owners/renters across Lake Union and Portage Bay. This year, the annual meeting is on **Thursday, April 29th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**, at the Pocock Rowing Center, 3320 Fuhrman East, just southwest of the University Bridge. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends and pick up important information that increases the quality of life here in the floating home community.

Each of our Floating Homes Association Committees will report on the latest issues regarding Safety & Security, Legislative and Environmental issues that impact where we live. This year, we also have a special feature video presentation highlighting some of the history of one of the founder of the Floating Homes Association, Terry Pettus. The video is being presented as part of a history project created by Veronica Galvin (who has lived all of her 14 years at 2019 Fairview Avenue East) and two classmates, Arielle Paulson and Lida Bilokur. We look forward to their historical recap of one of the most important people who has ever graced our docks!

Please join us and learn how you can plug in to make our floating home community even stronger. Remember to extend the invitation to new dock members. All are welcome at the Floating Homes Annual Meeting!

Be a Part of Floating Home History

In conjunction with the Floating Homes Association, two floating home residents, Scott Pearson (2764 Westlake) and Emily Hine (2766 Westlake), are making a film to capture and preserve the rich history of Seattle's floating home community in last century. The film will depict the color and drama of Seattle's floating homes community. The story will show the bohemian, rough and tumble existence that living on a houseboat originally represented. The film will include the struggle floating home residents have waged with the city and the state over the years to preserve both the environmental quality of Lake Union and Portage Bay and our alternative lifestyle. Anyone who has a unique historical story, anecdotes, reminiscences, or old photographs or film footage that you would like to share that can help tell our story, please contact Scott Pearson at 206-850-5064, or email scott@fireriver.tv.

You can also be a part of history by making a tax-deductible donation to help fund the floating home film. All donations of \$5,000 or greater will be permanently acknowledged in the film credits and will receive a copy of the film. To find out more, contact Emily Hine at 206-817-4241 or email emilyhine@comcast.net.

The Floating Homes Association's
42nd Annual

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 29, 2004
7:00 To 9:00 PM

POCOCK ROWING CENTER
3320 Fuhrman East (Parking Across the Street)

TERRY PETTUS VIDEO

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Right of First Refusal, 2004 Tour of Homes, Dock Watch

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS

Fun! Information! Refreshments!

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Security & Safety

Giff Jones
Tiffany McNamara
Co-Chairs

Jim Wandesforde, local artist of some renown and moorage owner on Fairview for many years, sketched this cartoon in the 1970's, proving once again that some things never really change.



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You must be an FHA member to advertise in the newsletter. Please contact the FHA office at 206-325-1132

Association Standing Committee Reports

CALL 911 FOR ANY EMERGENCY

A Seattle Police officer advises that a 911 call is justified by, but certainly not limited to, any incident or even a threat of: prowling, break-in, theft, vandalism, medical problem, personal or property endangerment, suspicious person or situation, even graffiti attack.

“Please call 911 for any emergency, no matter how small you perceive it to be”, he stated. “Let the 911 operator decide.” The number of 911 calls determines the amount of police protection assigned to that neighborhood.

Dock Watch Updates

Kudos to Paul Bernstein

Crime on the houseboats has predictably slowed down over the winter months. As a result the Dock Watch email newsletter is issued once a month or so. If you would like to be on the distribution list please email Sheriff McNamara at tiffmcnamara1@netscape.net.

One volunteer we are all better off for is Paul Bernstein. Paul frequently represents the Floating Homes Association in the monthly meeting of the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition. The EPCPC is a meeting of community members, the Seattle Police Department, Seattle Neighborhood Group, Street Outreach Services, Block Watch captains, the City Attorneys Office, Office of Policy and Management, Liquor Control Board, Seattle Weed and Seed, and more.

Thank you Paul for all of your hard work and dedication.

“GOTCHA”

Dock Prowler Caught

By Giff Jones

“You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you...” So began a 30 day visit to King County Jail for a mid-twenties white Male who, at 2:45 in the morning of October 7, 2003, was arrested for vehicle prowl.

Officer Dave Sylvester, a relative newcomer to the Harbor Patrol, but 14 year swat, and anti-crime teams veteran of the Seattle Police Department, was on night shift aboard Patrol 4 on Lake Union. Because of numerous 911 calls about prowlers, break-ins, and thefts, he and his partner were making visual premise checks along Fairview’s houseboat docks.

Approaching the 2300 block, they noticed two SPD patrol cars with spotlights moving towards them along Fairview. Patrol 4 then turned on their own “high lights” for mutual recognition. As the beams intersected over Marine ServiCenter’s boatyard dock, Officer Sylvester briefly noticed someone silhouetted, walking towards them down the dock. “I thought it was kinda’ odd”, he says, “... usually we don’t see anyone out on the docks at 2, 3 o’clock in the morning.” He directed his partner to maneuver the boat in close, hopped off on a finger pier, and started towards the main dock. “Realizing he was dealing with a police boat,” Sylvester continues, “the person had done an about-face and started walking away. He hopped onto a moored boat, fumbled around with the hatch cover, couldn’t get it to open, then got off the boat and started walking out (towards the street)”.

Meanwhile, the squad car officers were on the outside of the locked fence, and after spotting the individual, tried to lure him through the gate. Suddenly aware of the harbor officer moving stealthily towards them down the dock, the

continued next page



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Association Standing Committee Reports

'Gotcha' from previous page

land officers engaged the man in conversation as a distracting tactic, until Sylvester was able to sneak up and grab him from behind. "The guy didn't even realize I'd gotten off the boat", Sylvester says. "I escorted him [through the gate] and out to the street" where the other officers were able to assist.

"The guy had bulging pockets, was looking around for escape possibilities, and being evasive," says Sylvester, so the officers frisked him for weapons, sat him down, and handcuffed him. A search of his clothing and pack revealed

"The guy had bulging pockets, was looking around for escape possibilities, and being evasive."

several break-in tools and some vehicle registration papers. Meanwhile, one of the officers checking nearby cars found one broken into. The registration papers matched. Now with probable cause and Miranda Rights administered, the officers began a prescribed interview/questioning technique designed to relax the suspect and create a safe environment. It worked. He soon gave a full and complete crime scene confession.

This little drama was unique in that it was a perfect textbook case which was aided further by an eyewitness and the victim, both willing to be involved and to testify. A houseboat resident next door, hearing the commotion and recognizing the vandalized car, came forward. He knew, and helped find, the owner who was asleep on his nearby sailboat.

With the stolen property now identified, the perfect case was finally sealed at arraignment with the defendant's plea of guilty. One potential identity theft, vehicle theft, and/or property crime had been stopped in its tracks. The Floating Homes Association offers a hearty THANK YOU to Officer Dave Sylvester, the Seattle Police Department, and their Harbor Unit!



Environmental

Betty Swift, Chair

The Environmental Committee has three outstanding new members – Dave Galvin, Darlene Madenwald, and Sandi Simmons. They bring a wealth of experience in environmental management, salmon issues, hazardous waste, public affairs and houseboat living. For anyone wishing to join this group, please call Betty Swift at 323-3879.

Be a Lake Monitor

The King County Lake Monitor Program currently has four volunteers who keep tabs on lake water clarity and temperature in Lake Union and Portage Bay. More volunteers would be welcomed to help round out the data base on these waters. If you're interested in what goes on under your dock and would like to spend the daily five minutes or so collecting information, there is a training session coming up soon. This annual training workshop is for new and returning monitors and will be held Saturday, April 10, from 9:00 am to noon at the Kirkland Senior Center. For more information, contact Katie Messick at Katie.messick@metrokc.gov or 206-263-5086.

Slam Dunk the Junk

Save this date, May 15th, for the annual lake cleanup! Last year the weather was great, the trash was amazing, and the food provided by contributing restaurants made a noontime feast. Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, which sponsors this event with about 15 partnering organizations and businesses, will be coordinating the cleanup for both Lake Union and Portage Bay waters. Starting at 9:00 am on Saturday morning at the South Lake Union Park on Valley Street, volunteers will set out in small boats, on foot and wheels collecting trash from the water and shoreline. Chris Wilke of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance says a new plan this year is to pick up floating trash from among docks and houseboats. Long-handled nets and special blue trash bags will be made available to dock folks who call Chris at 206-297-7002.



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Association Standing Committee Reports

Detox the Lake

By Betty Swift

Did you see the salmon leaping late one Thursday in January? They were celebrating a U.S. District Court decision by Judge John Coughenour that was designed to give salmon relief from harmful pesticides in their home waters.

This court case stemmed from a 2002 decision that found the Environmental Protection Agency had failed to protect salmon from 54 commonly used pesticides. Now, with this new ruling, temporary protections for those leaping salmon are in place until the EPA determines which of critical pesticides can be safely used.

Judge Coughenour banned use of the pesticides near salmon-bearing streams in the Northwest and required retail stores to post warnings on shelves where they sell products containing seven problem chemicals. The accompanying chart shows these major chemical agents along with a short list of common products that contain them. We should be seeing "Salmon Hazard" signs going up in garden and hardware stores soon.

Lake Union and Portage Bay are included in the no-spray buffer zones at this time, exceptions are allowed for noxious weed control and West Nile Virus mosquito control. This is a great time for houseboaters to take the opportunity to make better choices of garden products and lessen the toxic load on their fish friends.

What can we do to detox the lake? We houseboaters move onto the water and surround ourselves with reminders of land

with pots and planters on every flat surface. When these get watered, anything on the plants washes directly into the lake.

So some basic natural yard care techniques work well for us:

- start with healthy soil that contains lots of natural organisms
- select disease-resistant plants that will thrive where they're planted
- pull weeds by hand and cover with good organic mulches
- use organic fertilizers and use only enough to maintain plant health
- fight the urge for perfection and accept a few bugs and blotchy leaves
- when a pest problem is out of control, identify the bug

Good "natural/organic" fertilizer choices have slow releasing nutrients to promote slow, steady growth. Remember, it's the juicy new fertilizer-forced greenery that aphids flock to.

Pesticides consist of "active" and "inert" ingredients, the latter including solvents, detergents, and other chemicals that help the product work well. These inerts can be even more toxic than the active ingredients, but are not disclosed on the product. Oils are a good least-toxic choice. They are effective against aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, caterpillars, scales, and even some kinds of mildew. These oils work by blocking air holes in insects and have low toxicity. They dissipate through evaporation, leave little residue and can be sprayed locally on only affected plants. Diluted neem oil mixed with a small amount of baking soda can even be effective against powdery mildew.

For slugs and snails, the new iron-based products 'Sluggo' and 'Worry Free' are virtually non-toxic except to slugs and are ok to use around water. Better yet, use beer traps, barriers of copper wire, or barriers of anything prickly such as ashes or wood chips. Or just use your fingers for picking them up!

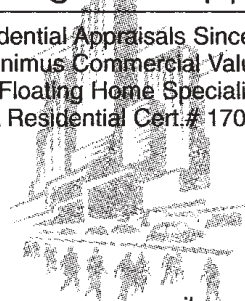
With spring almost here plan on fertilizing with lake water, weeding with the fingers and washing off aphids with the hose.

For more on floating gardening see Bob Lilly's "Lilly Pad" on page 13.

Pesticide	What it Does	Products to Watch For
Acephate	Insecticide	Isotox, Orthene, OrtheneX
Carbaryl	Insecticide	Snail Slug & Bug Killer, Snail Slug & Insect Granules, Sevin, Ortho Bug B Gon Granules, Bug Geta Plus, Corry's Bug Bait, Green Light Bug Bait
Chlorothalonil	Fungicide	Ortho Multipurpose Fungicide, Daconil
Diazinon	Insecticide	Diazinon was taken off the market in 2003. If you have products containing it, dispose of them through Househouse Hazardous Waste.
Malathion	Insecticide	Many brand name products contain Malathion, so look on the label
Pendimethalin	Herbicide	Scotts Turfbuilder Plus Halts
Trifluralin	Herbicide	Preen & Green, Preen, Scotts Garden Weed Preventer
2,4-D	Herbicide	Lilly Miller Lawn Weed Killer, Trimec, Spectracide Spot Weed Killer, Weed B Gon, Weed Stop and most weed-and-feed products

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Photo by Marc Sterling

UNSINKABLE INDEED

A Profile of Barbara Sterling

By Ann Schuh

Settling into one of Barbara Sterling's rocking chairs for tea on a rainy winter afternoon is one of the pleasures of our Shelby Group community. Raindrops patter into Portage Bay while the visitor enjoys the adventures of Barb's life.

83 years ago Barb was born in Charlotte, Michigan and it was there she grew up. She fell in love with the boy across the street, E.M. Sterling. In 1940, Barb took a job in the San Juan Islands. "Sterling" followed, and they married. The young couple's life was upset when Sterling was drafted into the army. He left Barb and a newborn son and spent the remainder of the war in China, Burma and India. On his return he found newspaper work in Yakima, Colville and Spokane. In 1960, with three sons in tow, the couple moved to Seattle where Sterling wrote for the Seattle Times, PI and Boeing.

In Spokane Barb taught handicapped children and adults at the YWCA. She loved the rehabilitation work but the Y job included everything from cleaning pool filters to giving speeches and writing articles. After she was settled in Seattle, Barb became director of volunteers at COH, where she remained for 10 years. "There was nothing I couldn't do, thanks to my training at the Y." Later she worked at University Hospital.

As a couple, the Sterlings shared a love of the outdoors and through a series of books they shared their knowledge of the wilderness. The most recent, *BEST SHORT HIKES IN WASHINGTON'S NORTH CASCADES AND THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS*, was published shortly after Sterling's death in 2001.

When their three boys were raised, the Sterlings decided to move to a smaller house. Barb liked the idea of houseboat living. Sterling wasn't sure. He would show interest in a houseboat but by the next day he had changed his mind. When Marge Muller (who drew maps for Sterling's books) put her houseboat on the McGinnis moorage up for sale, Sterling made an offer. Before Marge could respond he went to Portland. While there he called home.

"What did you do today?" he asked Barb.

"I bought Marge Muller's houseboat," she said.

There was a long pause and then he asked, "Why did you do that?"

Barb told him that Marge had accepted his offer, "and I wasn't going to let this one get away."

In 1968 the Sterlings moved aboard #6, a beige houseboat with a red trim wraparound porch and a broken railing. Sterling had regrets. He complained about the linoleum and said the place depressed him. Barb had the answer, and once carpeting was installed, Sterling settled in. Barb's love for the houseboat strengthened when she painted the exterior a yellow with white trim.

The houseboat's gentle motion takes Barb back to childhood dreams. She wanted to be a bareback rider in a circus or maybe a barnstorming pilot. She practiced for the circus on her grandfather's farm horse, Old Dobbin. But the closest she got to flying was in the top of a sumac tree during Michigan windstorms. She didn't realize her dreams until the boys were independent. Then Barb began riding at a stable in rural Redmond. Instead of a circus there were horseback trips, including five journeys through the Stehekin Wilderness in the eastern Cascades.

"On that last trip my knees ached," she recalls. "As a plane flew over, I remembered my barnstorming dream." So

Photo by Marc Sterling



In 1972 Barb began flying lessons in Port Townsend with Erik, the grandson of 'Lucky' Lindbergh.

in 1972 Barb began flying lessons in Port Townsend with Erik, the grandson of “Lucky” Lindbergh.

Barb described the only time she took Sterling up in a plane. “I told the pilot I didn’t want to alarm Sterling so I wouldn’t fly the plane but sit in the right side seat.” The pilot said, “Oh no. You’ll fly the plane.” You don’t argue with those guys so we took off with me in the left seat. Pretty soon I asked the pilot to check how scared Sterling looked. The pilot laughed and said, “I can’t see his face. He’s too busy taking pictures.”

When I landed and we were still taxiing, Sterling stood up and announced, “That was the most marvelous flight I ever had!” I had to tell him that there was another plane behind us and he would have to sit down. But I was pleased.

Barb still treats herself to an occasional flight, enjoying mountains and seas from a different perspective. Back on Earth, she camps in her VW Westfalia and is an avid kayaker. While she worked at the University Hospital, Barb commuted across Portage Bay by kayak. On the late shift, she sometimes swam beside the unlighted kayak to avoid the Harbor Patrol. These experiences reinforce her sense of self-reliance.

Like many houseboaters Barb insists on her independence. Whenever something breaks or quits on the houseboat, “I just sit here and figure it out,” she claims. With an occasional hand and advice from neighbors, she keeps everything ship-shape. Each year Barb paints one side of her sunny houseboat. She loves company and recently created a guest bedroom inside and added bird houses outside.

Barb gives back to her neighbors. In December 1996 when houseboaters shoveled snow off roofs, the Sterling’s fed everyone hot pancakes, keeping up spirits and energy. Skills learned in hospitals make Barb the Shelby Group’s prime resource for health questions. Through Covenant House (campus ministry) Barb has taught ESL (English as a Second Language) to wives of visiting professors. It is a special treat for them to visit the teacher’s houseboat.

With a sparkle in her dark eyes, Barb brings us back to the present, inviting the visitor to join her for a swim in the frigid bay. She is only half joking, for among her many interests she is a “polar bear.”

Ann Schuh is a retired teacher. She lives on Shelby Group dock.

Fairview Park

Visitors and Volunteers Welcome

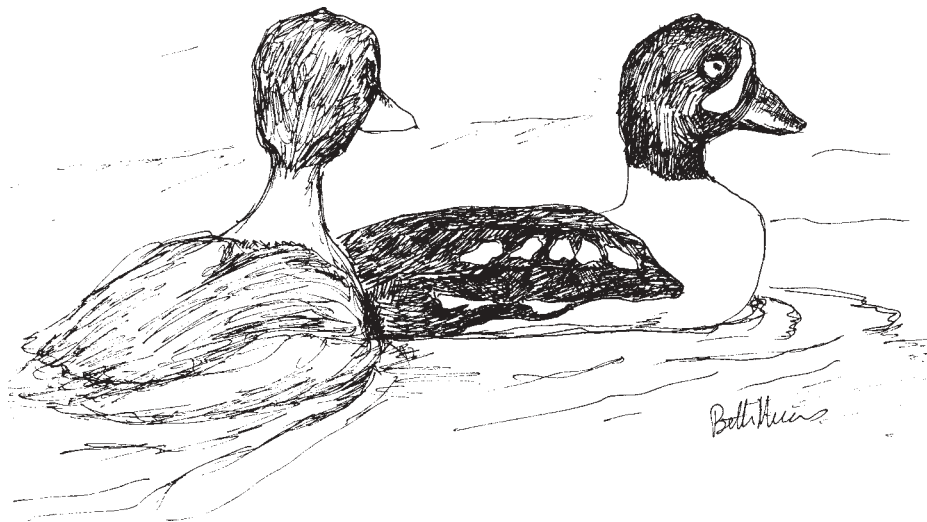
By Kris Bernacki

Fairview Park is a jewel in our Eastlake neighborhood. We are very lucky to have this wonderful park of woods & lakefront located on the north ½ of Fairview Avenue east near Shelby Street, accessible from either Eastlake or Fairview by foot, car, bike, or boat. There is an abundance of wildlife that visits the park – from beavers and muskrats to kingfishers and eagles to salmon. Indeed, Fairview Park is probably the closest wildlife park to downtown Seattle, and an important stopover for our water and tree loving friends. Adjacent to the park is the well loved Eastlake P-Patch. It’s a rare day to walk by the park and not see people enjoying it!

The park was developed only 6 years ago, but unfortunately few resources were put toward maintenance of the park after construction and planting. Today we have some serious invasive weed problems. The two worst offenders are clematis smothering the trees and Japanese knotweed taking over the shoreline. We also are constantly working to keep ivy, blackberry, and creeping buttercup at bay.

There are monthly work parties held on every 4th Saturday from 10 am-1pm to do battle with the weeds, plant new plants, and to simply work alongside neighbors. If you enjoy this park, want to get to know this special place – and your neighbors, please do come! There is a monthly email reminder for the work parties – to get on this list please email Krissy Biernacki at krissy@blueskies.ms

Krissy Biernacki is a Native Plant Steward who has been stewarding Fairview Park. Feel free to contact her about Fairview Park at the above email address or at 324-4253.



‘Scaups’ by Beth Means

Democratic Discourse

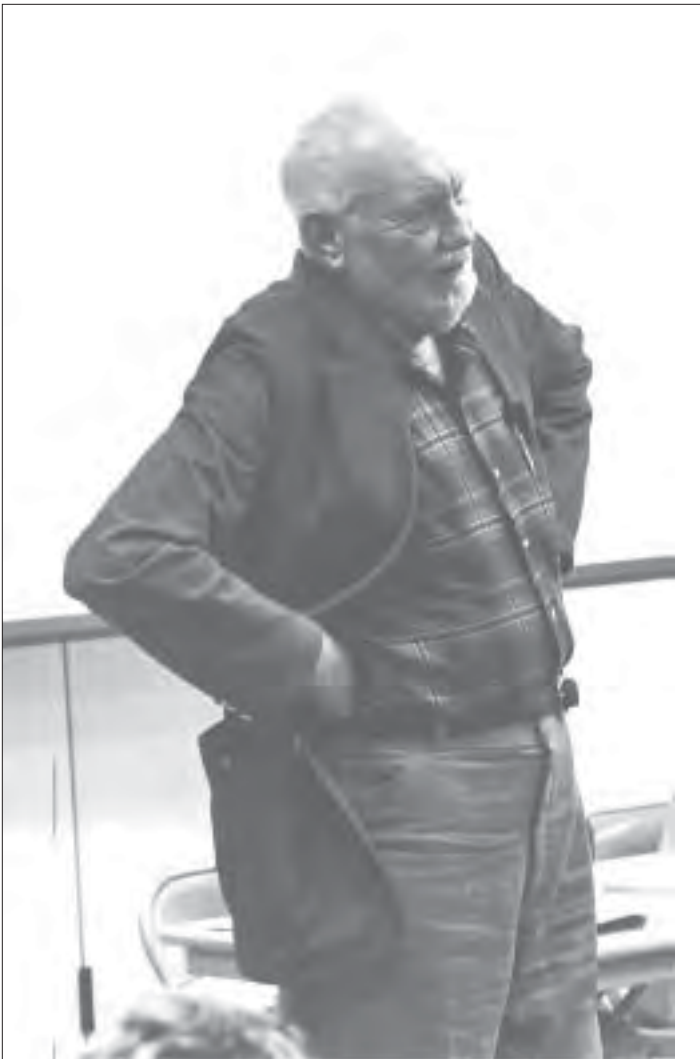
By Dick Wagner

Terry Pettus' strategy for saving houseboats was to find the most good for the most people.

I gave a sailing tour of Lake Union to some Russian sailors just prior to their hammer and sickle flag going down. They saw houseboats with people feeding the ducks, reading the newspaper with their toes dangling in the water, leaving and returning on their skimming windsurfers. The Russians said, "This would never be allowed in our country, it's too much fun."

Our floating homes communities are a charming culture,

Photo by Jonathan Ezekiel



Terry coaching the underdogs.

an icon of Seattle. They are floating on a cloud of euphoria, but in the late 60's they were teetering on the brink of extinction.

The houseboat community was in a state of confusion and resignation. After all, you can't fight government. The plans were laid to redevelop Lake Union as a dense urban center and to remove houseboats that were blocking eco-

nomie opportunities. Houseboaters couldn't stop this plan. They were a bunch of romantics with no political or financial power. But out of the midst of hopeless romantics arose Terry Pettus, a genius political strategist and the last best hope of the houseboat community.

Terry didn't give the impression of a hardened guerilla leader. Tweedy, pipe puffing academic, calm and confident but succinct in speech, in his post retirement years.

But Terry knew how to coach the underdogs and win the big game. First was the organization. He literally knocked on doors and convinced the houseboaters to join the Floating Homes Association, because in numbers there is power. Then the makeover. Terry made us believe we had to dress for success. That meant paint up and clean up the houses and docks, and clean up our message to the government and property owners who were eagerly anticipating financial windfalls. We had to stop whining, stop sarcastic remarks and hostile accusations about the pro development side. Finally, respond to the situation with a positive, cooperative party line and do it frequently. Soon letters and phone calls to the media and government were being sent at machine gun tempo. A few months after the house boaters Emancipation Proclamation (the Equity Ordinance) was signed by Mayor Charles Royer, the Mayor attended the Floating Homes Association Annual Meeting. The attendance at the meeting was about 100. Royer stood up and told us he was surprised by the number of attendees as he and the City Council assumed from all the correspondence and phone calls that there were 10,000 houseboat residents.

The party line that Terry outlined was that one unified community was speaking, that they provided values to the city. Most important of all, the houseboaters were to advocate a planning partnership through democratic discourse, with its premise being the most good for the most people. Houseboaters were to support diverse uses that would contribute to the social and economic welfare of this city. That was Terry's game face. But in debriefing sessions with the Floating Homes board, after a typically stressful planning meeting with the other side, Terry was known to conclude, "We'll piss on their graves."

A host of houseboaters were invaluable leaders and soldiers in the Terry Pettus brigade. As bright and committed as they all were, they would not have been a team without Terry, and the team would not have saved the houseboats without the strategy of democratic discourse, which they learned from the Aristotle of Lake Union, Terry Pettus.

Dick Wagner is the Founding Director of the Center for Wooden Boats at South Lake Union. He was president of the Floating Homes Association for four years in the 1970's.



By Bob Lilly

News from a Hard Winter

We all grow our plants in pots and this winter was colder than we have had in several years but not the coldest we can have. In my 33 years on Tenas Chuck the coldest night was 9 degrees F. Many tender plants like Zonal Geraniums, Scented Geraniums, Salvias and Fuchsias can be badly damaged or even killed but the general rule is to leave everything alone for several weeks to be sure. Often geraniums and other sub-shrubs like salvias grow up from the base so don't throw them out yet.

Perennials should be cleaned up, dead and mushy leaves removed and

In my 33 years on Tenas Chuck the coldest night was 9 degrees F.

checked for slugs. It is also wise to check under the pots for slugs in the drain hole. Slug eggs are clear or slightly opaque at this time of year and about the size of a B-B and usually in clusters, slightly sticky.

Evergreen shrubs like Viburnum, Eucalyptus, Rhododendrons and Pieris can show some damage to leaves but should be left alone until new growth starts. Those that flower are pruned to shape right after flowering.

Hard cutting back of Evergreen shrubs grown in pots is usually not effective as the dormant buds are not as vigorous as with plants grown in the garden.

Pots can be fertilized when the new growth starts either with a product like Miracle Grow you mix with water or with a slow release balanced N-P-K like Osmokote 14-14-14.

These types of plant food should be mixed in the soil and are best used when you first plant or transplant. I usually switch to Miracle Grow after the first year as this works best for the plants.

For potting soil, I have found the best product is Black Gold regular potting soil or organic potting soil. It has the right balance of peat, worm castings, perlite and pumice for a long lasting texture, good drainage and oxygen content in the soil. I do reuse my soil but usually mix it with some fresh Black Gold.

The best pots for houseboats are probably wood but they don't last long so most of us are using ceramic or clay pots now. The pots coming out of China, Malaysia and Viet-Nam are very good quality and now have the holes already set or drilled. Always use broken clay pots (shards) in the bottom of your pots with all pieces set concave side down. On big pots

The FHA Newsletter welcomes the return of this popular gardening column by Bob Lilly, horticulturist and long time houseboater on Tenas Chuck. Bob designed the Arboretum Garden for this year's NW Flower and Garden Show.

2 or 3 inches of this drainage is recommended.

Styrofoam peanuts, gravel and anything else should not be used – they do not work and your plants need soil for root room to thrive, not filler. Buy smaller pots.

There are two new products on the market for slug control and can be used in pots and near the lake. 'Sluggo' and 'Worry Free' are both the same and offer us a safe method to keep the slug population down.

Annuals will start to show up soon at the stores but actually won't perform well until after the soil has reached 50 degrees or above. I usually wait to set out new plants until after Mother's Day as we also have to contend with more wind than most homeowners and there is nothing more destructive than an early May south wind.

Cats can be a problem in freshly

This is a good time to check your beaver wire on your willows

planted pots. If you can encourage placement of an outside litter box it **will** help. The best cat control is to pot up with lots of plants – a full pot is a happy pot and summer is brief anyway.

If you planted bulbs last fall you should give them some bulb food right now for better results if you want your daffodils to increase. We do now have a pest in daffodil/narcissus bulbs – the larvae of the Narcissus Fly which eats the bulb throughout the winter. There is **no** control.

This is a good time to check your beaver wire on your willows and other trees near the water – they will try to chop down most anything.

So take heart. Spring is on the way. Resist jumping the gun and wait till May for those summer annuals. We do get quite a boost from reflected light off the water – our pots can rival the best of the landlubbers' efforts.

IN MEMORIAM



Photo from Swanson family

August Swanson 8/25/25 - 23/29/03

Dr. August "Gus" Swanson was born and raised in Nebraska. When he was seventeen he left for college in Missouri. While there he met his wife Ellyn who attended a neighboring college. He went to medical school at Harvard and he and Ellyn came to Seattle in 1949 with their first of six children so he could intern at Harborview. After his service in the military, he returned to Seattle as the first resident in the neurology program at the U of W which he completed at Boston City Hospital in 1956. In 1963 Ellyn and their six children accompanied him to England where he attended Oxford University as a visiting fellow which he was able to do after being awarded a Markle scholarship given to promising academic physicians.

In 1964 he became head of neurology at the U of W and in 1967, Associate Dean for Student Affairs. He then served as acting Dean of the Medical School from 1969 to 1970 where he created a multi-state alliance allowing students to attend the U while receiving basic clinical training in their home state — what he felt was his greatest contribution to the University. In 1971 he moved across the country to become Director of the Department of Academic Affairs at the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, DC and spent the next 20 years trying to provide a more flexible, broader and

meaningful content for the medical school curriculum. His end goal resulted in "curing the patient" which was the medical school itself.

Away from his academic life, Gus had many other interests and seemed to be good at everything he tried. He was especially interested in all aspects of sailing, from working on the boat to racing and pleasure sailing. His first sailboat was tied up to a Portage Bay houseboat moorage thus introducing him and Ellyn to the floating home community.

In the late 1980's Ellyn was contacted by friend Ethel Scribner who lived in a Portage Bay houseboat and Ethel told Ellyn there were two houseboats for sale that she knew about, but that they would sell fast. So they became owners and rented the place out until 1992 when Gus retired and they moved back to Seattle. The moving company they had spoken to told them a moving van could not get to the houseboat address and even if they could the steep stairway access to the moorage would cost an astronomical surcharge to move them in. Ethel had told Ellyn several times about a man with a barge who could move them by water and though apprehensive, she finally contacted George Johnston who had their belongings unloaded at the foot of Hamlin street and then safely barged to their back door.

Neighbors recall the many family get togethers at the houseboat — no small feat considering their 6 children with various spouses and 18 grandchildren constituted "immediate family". These gatherings will no doubt continue as the family remembers this extraordinary man: husband, father, grandfather, and friend; doctor, sailor, and all the other attributes that made Gus such a fascinating and lovable person to those lucky enough to have known him. — **Jann McFarland**

Kenneth Allan Sirotnik 8/1/42 - 1/29/04

The floating homes community lost a neighbor and friend on January 29th when Ken Sirotnik died after a brief bout with cancer. Ken grew up in West L.A. during the birth of rock and roll

and early on discovered a life long love of drumming. He lived with wife Sheryl Holt for 28 years and they raised two sons, Andrew and Matthew. For the past nine years he shared his life with fellow educator, Kathy Kimball.

"Ken took the world for what it is and enjoyed its natural beauty. He loved fishing and camping with his sons, and later enjoyed hiking and exploring the world's wild places. With all the reason and passion he could muster, Ken confronted the world and how it works.



Photo from Sirotnik family

Natural beauty he understood; social inequity he understood only in order to fight it. Ken was passionate about the promise of America and how that promise has been denied to so many. Despite a sometimes gruff demeanor, Ken gave rest, succor, support, inspiration, and a listening ear to all those in need. He had a strong sense of justice, obligation, and the need for considered action to oppose injustice. In all of this he was utterly tenacious.

In 1985 after 20 years of extensive teaching and research in and around UCLA, Ken and his family moved to Seattle. He became a full professor and, for eight years, Chair of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the College of Education at the University of Washington. Ken was instrumental in developing an evening degree program in higher education and two major programs to prepare school leaders. He was co-founder of the Center for Educational Renewal at the UW and served in an advisory role to the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition to his work as a dedicated teacher and leader, Ken was a

IN MEMORIAM

counselor, mentor, and advisor to untold numbers of students and colleagues.

To know Ken is to know the passion of a complex man's thinking and acting in a world of reality and promise – a world of what is and what we must strive for. Ken was extraordinarily talented in educational inquiry. He was the principal research designer for major nationwide education studies, including a study of schooling and a study of teacher education. Ken helped dozens of doctoral students to develop their research skills and complete their dissertations both at UCLA and the UW. He was a careful scholar, meticulous in his research and cautious with his findings." He wrote many articles and books on a wide range of educational topics.

Ken's life with Kathy was spent in their west Lake Union houseboat. And of course the houseboat experience isn't totally complete without remodeling said houseboat, but Ken was careful to maintain the integrity of the old house. Ken & Kathy both loved life on the Lake and opened their home for the 2002 Floating Homes houseboat tour where they further expanded their acquaintances with fellow houseboaters. Ken leaves behind many family members, neighbors and friends. "We have lost a wonderful soul but are left with a powerful legacy."

Thanks to Kathy Kimball for allowing us to quote and paraphrase from her Seattle Times article from Sunday, February 8th.

Shirley Thomas 10/20/21 - 12/9/03

Shirley Thomas was a Seattle native and a graduate of Ballard High School and the University of Washington. It was while she attended the University that she met husband, Paul Thomas. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past July. They lived in Chehalis for 30 years until their retirement. They raised four children, and one of their daughters, Margaret, resides in the houseboat community with her husband, Gene Morris and family. Paul and Shirley traveled extensively and Shirley enjoyed reading and playing bridge. Friends remember Shirley as a

lovely vivacious, fun person to be around and will miss her dearly.

The Thomases joined the houseboat community in 1971 when they bought a "fixer-upper" on Westlake for \$9,200 which they completely rebuilt. Shortly after they bought their floating home, the whole houseboat community was faced with a serious threat from a group who wanted to get rid of all houseboats. They joined the efforts of the Floating Homes Association and supported the fine efforts of Terry Pettus and Bill Keasler that finally resulted in protection of Seattle's present houseboat Equity Ordinance. Sometime after the adoption of



Photo from Paul Thomas

Seattle's ordinance, three landlords, who together owned over 10% of the houseboat moorages served all of their tenants with eviction notices. The Thomases were instrumental in getting Bill Dwyer, a prominent "worthy causes" lawyer, and later, an outstanding Federal Judge, to defend the eviction notices. Two years of legal action ensued. The eviction notices were finally dropped and the three landlords offered leases to their tenants.

The Thomases were always active in the Floating Homes Association's fund raising efforts to help offset the legal bills incurred from various issues and problems. At one auction Paul and Shirley donated an excursion for four people on their cruiser, including refreshments, to watch the Christmas ship parade on Lake Union which was a

big hit with bidders. They also opened their houseboat for one of the houseboat tours while they lived there, and Shirley's recipes were included in the first floating homes cookbook with reference to some pretty good dock parties held over on their moorage.

Paul and Shirley ended up owning four houseboats on their dock at one time – usually trying to help neighbors who could not afford to stay on the dock. They were all ultimately sold and in 1991 the couple moved to a triplex they owned in Magnolia. They lived there until Shirley died, but they always regarded their 20 years of houseboat living as a very special time in their lives.
– Paul Thomas

Yvonne Nylund 7/13/36 - 11/28/03

The members of Houseboat Harbor on Portage Bay are still feeling the loss of one of their own. Yvonne "Vonny" Nylund passed away while visiting her mother in California during the Thanksgiving holidays. Vonny joined the houseboat community in 1986 and was a gracious, lovely neighbor and friend who truly enjoyed houseboat life. At the same time, her love of traveling took her to faraway places including Mexico, Central America, Turkey, and Morocco where she collected the many colorful fabrics with which she decorated her home.

Vonny's pre-houseboat years were filled with raising her two children, Scott and Sandra McNeill, earning a Master's degree in Computer Sciences, traveling extensively, and working in career fields that were just opening up to women.

Life on Portage Bay with Vonny brings many happy memories. In the summers she could be seen swimming laps back and forth with great determination. She also studied ballet! And she enjoyed gardening on her houseboat decks, planting flowers, vegetables, and small trees. Her feline companions, Tao and Cleo were treated with loving attention. Washing her vintage Volvo and working on her houseboat with just the right tools were also her pride.

We remember Vonny and miss her presence, her zest for life. – Myrna Cordova

By Chris Leman

MARCH 31 MEETING TO FIGHT RISING CRIME

The citywide increase in house break-ins and car prowls (some of them drug-related) has been noticeable around Lake Union. If you have suffered from such crimes or want to help prevent them, please come to the Eastlake Community Council's public meeting on Wednesday, March 31 (7-9 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School). Representatives of the Seattle Police Department will be there to answer questions about what the police can do, and what the community can do to make this a safer neighborhood.

A first line of defense is more cooperation between neighbors. If you notice a suspicious situation, let your neighbors and the police know right away (see box below for police phone numbers). Mutual defense is particularly facilitated by a block watch—getting to know your neighbors and exchanging phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Best of all, take a few minutes each day to walk around and notice any problems. This will help prevent crime and catch any perpetrators. If you can't make it to the March 31 meeting, ask the Police Department's Sonja Richter to mail some crime-prevention and block watch information (694-7717, sonja.richter@seattle.gov).

A block watch group is also more convincing when the neighborhood wants more help from the police. It shows we're doing our part, plus a single voice is good, but the whole block speaking together gets things done. Speak up about your neighborhood's policing needs to East Precinct captain Fred Hill at 684-4300 or fred.hill@seattle.gov. And speak up for more patrols at the monthly meeting of the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition, a non-profit organization which meets fourth Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Seattle Vocational Institute, 2120 South Jackson, room 212 (to get on its mailing list: 323-9584 or mary@sngle.org).

IMPLEMENTING THE EASTLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan, completed in 1998 with City assistance and an unprecedented grassroots effort, was approved and adopted unanimously by the City Council and Mayor in 1999. Many recent neighborhood improvements started with the neighborhood plan, among them the pathway in front of NOAA, the south end Eastlake Avenue median, funding for the I-5 noise wall and Colonnade Park projects, the 15 mph signs and Green Street planning on Fairview, and revival of Eastlake's tra-

Chris Leman is a regular contributor to the *Newsletter of news from the Eastlake community*. He has served on the Eastlake Community Council Board for many years.



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Eastlake

Eastlake

ditional summer festival, now called the Eastlake Shake.

The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan Stewardship Committee has voting seats for ECC, Portage Bay/Roanoke Park Community Council, Floating Homes Association, Eastlake Community Land Trust, Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission, NOISE, Parents of TOPS, Eastlake's two business associations, and representatives of apartment owners and social service organizations. In February, the Stewardship Committee identified the following steps from the neighborhood plan that deserve the City's priority attention in 2004 (not listed in priority order):

- Improve admissions to nearby public schools (including Montlake, Stevens, The Options Program at Seward, and the John Stanford International School) for children who are resident in the Eastlake and Portage Bay/Roanoke Park neighborhoods.
- Design and fund a safer intersection of Fairview Ave. E. and Fairview Ave. North.
- Implement the proposed Eastlake Avenue Pedestrian Overlay District.
- All King County Metro buses with routes on Eastlake Avenue will, at the least, make stops near Fairview Ave., Lynn St., and Harvard Ave.
- Fully fund the I-5 noise walls and the Ship Canal Bridge

noise retrofit; protect the neighborhood from I-5/SR-520 expansion; and implement the I-5 open space project (Colonade Park).

So much has been achieved, it would be unfortunate if the City neglected the neighborhood plans. In last year's budget crunch, the Mayor and City Council eliminated the Department of Neighborhoods division for neighborhood plan implementation, and now threatened is the Neighborhood Matching Fund, which has built or rebuilt many of our parks, and many other neighborhood projects—all with a high proportion of volunteer resources. The Mayor and City Council need to hear from us on the importance of both programs. The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan can be viewed at www.eastlake.oo.net. Paper copies are available at the FHA office, the Seattle Public Library and Lake Union Mail. Questions about the plan are welcome and so are volunteers to help with various projects: c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102, or cleman@oo.net, 322-5463.

Crimefighting Phone Numbers

- 911** Crime or health emergency in progress
- 684-4071** Harbor Police, crimes on and near water
- 684-8763** Abandoned cars, illegally parked cars
- 684-5740** Investigations of burglary and theft
- 684-5797** Narcotics investigations
- 684-0330** Domestic violence
- 684-8763** Illegally parked or abandoned vehicles

Whetstone Gallery

New Gallery on Fairview Features Local Artists

The sculpture of Gus Schairer will be featured at the new Whetstone Studio and Gallery through March and April. Jan Knutson's photographs and Ed Whetstone Hutchinson's paintings are also featured.

All long-time houseboaters, Jan and Ed own the gallery that opened in November and Gus lives in Mallard Cove. The gallery is located on the second floor at 2510 Fairview East and is open weekends, noon to 4PM. Drop by to browse and chat and make a wish while rubbing the huge whetstone mounted by the doorway. There are prints and cards of most of the works available as well. — **Gus Schairer**

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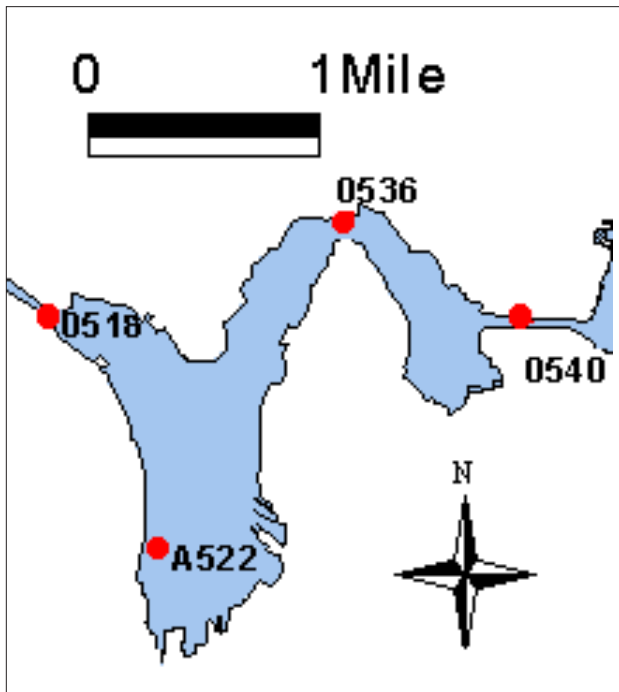


Figure 1. Water quality monitoring sites on Lake Union and Portage Bay. From an image on the King County Natural Resources and Parks Website.

Water Quality Data Are a Click Away

By Dave Galvin

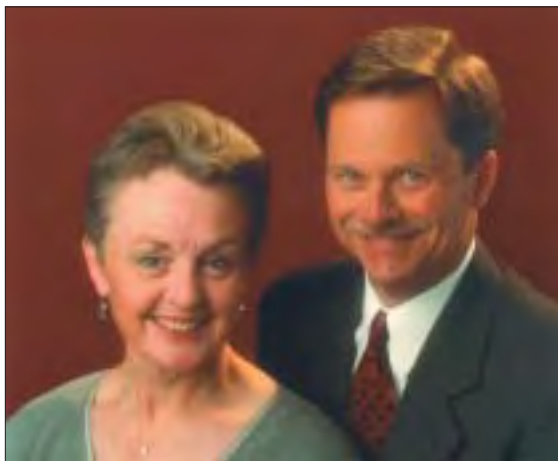
Ever wonder about the quality of the water you are floating on or swimming in? There is actually a wealth of historical and current data available, brought to you by your local King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Surf over to this mouthful of an address and away you go:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/lakes/UNION.HTM>

Samples of water are collected monthly from two sites in the lake and two at its edges, as shown on the map (Figure 1); for the two deeper sites, samples are collected both at the surface and from near the bottom. These samples are analyzed for a variety of "conventional" things of interest to lake water quality, everything from temperature to nutrients to algae levels to bacteria. This routine water quality monitoring has been going on for decades, so there is a large historical data set to look back on to see how things are going.

Let's explore this a bit. Take the site down in the southwest part of the lake (#A522 on the map). Click on that and, voila, a variety of parameters are listed. Try surface temperature, and you will get a graph (copied here as Figure 2) that plots out five years of results, through 2002. This shows the general trends: that the water is typically around 45 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter, warming slowly to a tolerable low 60s F by mid June, peaking a little above 70 degrees F at the first of August, staying pleasant through September, then plummeting back to winter cold in October.

These temperature data are very similar to my own personal log book from my place at 2019 Fairview, where I have sporadically dipped a thermometer and kept a record since 1997. The coldest I've ever recorded is about 45 F in January; the warmest was 76 F (!) on July 30th, 2003. In fact, by my records, last summer was the warmest water we've ever had. Sure was good for swimming.



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If you look at the deep lake temperatures on the Web, you see that in the winter the lake water is about the same temperature from top to bottom, while in the summer, the deep water never gets above the mid 60s F. This stratification is common in almost all lakes in the summer and is important for the fish (another story). Typically the first big storms in the fall, coupled with the cooling temperature at the surface, cause "turn-over" to happen in the lake, and after that the water column is uniform in temperature (and many other parameters) until spring.

Measures of conductivity illustrate the phenomenon of salt water intrusion into the bottom of the lake from the locks, which has actually improved quite a bit in recent years with changes put in by the Army Corps of Engineers. Transparency up and down as well following algae/plankton cycles, although it tends to be greatest in late summer and early fall. Being able to see on

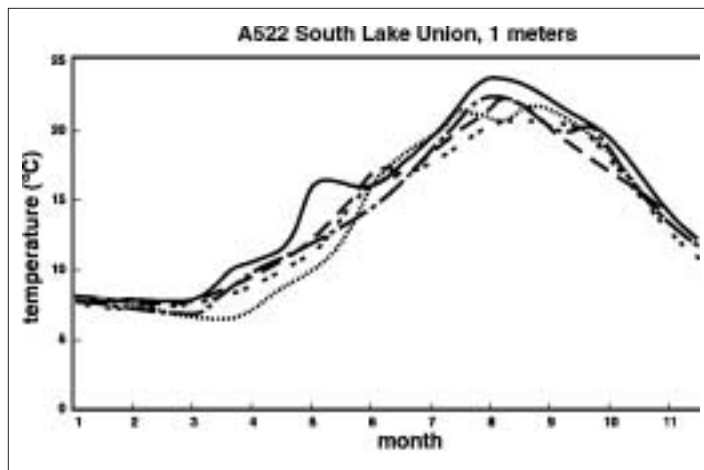


Figure 2. Lake Union Temperature Cycle.

I watch these data. I swim in the lake. While there are always some risks, it is my opinion that the levels of bacteria we see in the typical summer months are O.K.

occasion the little measuring disk at depths of more than 20 feet is really quite remarkable for an urban lake! Even the average of around 10 feet deep is quite amazing. Of course this clear water allows for more aquatic plants to grow, but that is another story.

The parameters probably of most interest to you are the bacteria measures. Routine analyses are done for fecal coliform bacteria, a standard indicator influenced by pet runoff and goose poop as well as human sewage. Look for *E. coli* measures in future data sets on the web. We still have some combined sewer overflows as well as many stormdrains discharging into the lake, although the former have been greatly reduce in recent years and neither discharge much if at all in the summer. As shown on charts on the accessible on the web, bacterial levels are signifi-

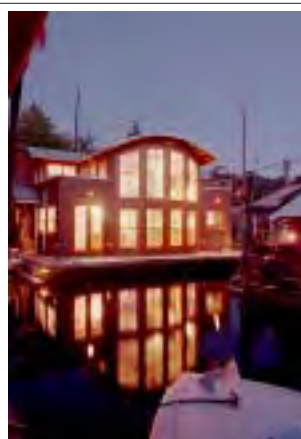
cantly higher in winter than in summer. Levels seen in recent years are within swimming beach standards in the summer.

I watch these data. I swim in the lake. I let my kids swim in the lake. While there are always some risks, it is my opinion that the levels of bacteria we see in the typical summer months are O.K. and not a significant issue. I won't swim after a big storm, which is rare in the summer around here but does happen on occasion. I don't swim in the winter, when the CSOs and stormdrains still release high bacterial levels into our neighborhood.

It is neat to see the boom-and-bust cycles of algae and plankton, the salmon jumping and the beaver splashing. We should celebrate what we have. For such a large urban lake, we have amazingly good water quality. (The sediments on the bottom are another story entirely – I wouldn't muck around down there if I were you.)

I hope that some of this ramble has been of interest to you. I encourage you to jump onto the Web and check out these water quality data collected and plotted by King County scientists. Feel free to send your questions to me at dave.galvin@metrokc.gov or to Dave Galvin at 2019-F Fairview Avenue East, 98102. I will log them, consult with local experts, and answer the FAQs in later issues of this newsletter.

Ed's Note – We had to chop poor Dave's story substantially to fit it into this space. You really should be online when you're reading it anyway, so we've published his full text with all of Betty's illustrations on our website at <http://www.seattlefloatinghomes.org/Newsletters/04/extras/galvinsp04.asp>



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Houseboaters Pay It Forward With Peace Corps in Tonga

By Jan Carlson

Mark Koenig and Erin Roche, a young, thirty-something couple living in a floating home on the west side of Lake Union, built careers in the high-tech industry as it peaked, Erin as a Marketing Manager for Aventail, a Seattle software/tech company, and Mark as a research manager for an internet company. As the .com era headed down hill, they watched many good friends lose their jobs. Then in the summer of 2002 they found themselves victims of the .com bust. Mark's company folded. In exploring their options, they decided that they didn't want to have to sell their floating home if Erin lost her job. They thought about just traveling for a while if Erin's employment went away, but they knew that, "not having any responsibility would probably make [them] both crazy," so they decided to capitalize on the earlier good fortune the high-tech industry had brought them and give back to others by joining the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps told them that they would be going to Siberia. So they packed for cold and snow, sold their cars, quit their remaining jobs and rented out their houseboat. Then, as Peace Corps officials often do, they changed their minds and reassigned Mark and Erin to Tonga and told them that they would have to hang out for three months before leaving for this South Pacific Island. Making the best of the situation again, "after a bit of a packing/wardrobe crisis," they repacked for the tropics and embarked on a three-month Odyssey across the U.S.

"We left the dock at the end of June, 2002, left Seattle a couple weeks later and left America in October 2002. We're finished in Tonga in December 2004," wrote Erin and Mark in a remarkable series of emails sent to friends here after they left.

To a query about where exactly is Tonga, they responded, "Tonga is South of Samoa, South East of Fiji and just N of the Tropic of Capricorn, so [it has a] latitude similar to Mexico/Caribbean."

On a Saturday morning in October, a large group of Corps volunteers and staff cheered and welcomed Mark and Erin as they stepped onto the main island of Tonga, Tongatapu. That evening they traveled the 2 kilometers from their new digs at Selá's Guest House to the PC office for a formal greeting and kava circle.

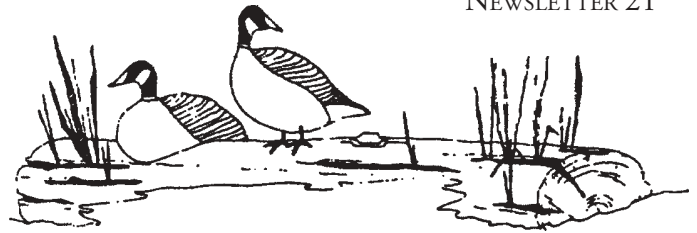
"Kava is a drink made from the ground roots of kava, a relative of the pepper plant. Think brown, chalky cool water that delivers a slight buzz and tingling tongue. Women only need to consume this mixture on special occasions, but men drink the stuff by the gallon for social events. Lucky, lucky Ma'ake (Mark)," wrote Erin (Elina) facetiously.

"Monday we started training – language, cultural understanding, health/safety and "technical" training- training for the jobs we will do in country. "

Erin and Mark have had many more adventures, some which will be covered in future issues of the Newsletter. They would love to hear from other floating homers. They can be emailed at mepc@fastmail.fm. They also have a weblog (<http://islandtime.typepad.com/>) where everyone can see photos from their journeys and hear what they have been up to lately.

Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson
With Jo Seel and Marty Greer



After what has seemed like a long winter we had a sign of Spring. A few warm days in the low 60s and houseboaters went crazy. Bikes, boats and gardening tools were dragged from musty closets and put to good use. But as I write this, the early afternoon sky is dark, the winds have risen and the rain is pounding onto the roof and Portage Bay. **Forget about Spring!** Maybe there is time to get away? If you can't take off for warmer climes or even find time for a weekend at Whistler, you might enjoy reading about last summer and fall travels. The choices vary from climbing in Africa to visiting nature preserves, or studying a foreign language in Vermont to lazing about in Mexico.

Westlake

Emily Hine at 2766 Westlake reports her neighbors, Laurie Arnold and Tony are the proud parents of **Oliver**, born in December.

Jo Seel sends news from **2466, 2420 and 2460** Westlake. Heather Cargile and Mark Lakefish, at 2466 were married in Key West, Florida on November 1, 2003. Welcome to Gennell Lockwood and Paul Boyd, who bought #13 at **2420** Westlake Cooperative. And to Chuck Day, #10, who moved in just before Christmas. "Chuck threatened us with a topless pillow fight, and then said it was a joke—darn! It would have livened up the dock." Chuck is considering opening a cooking school in Southern Italy—we bet he could entice a lot of houseboat folks as students in that venue. Gennell and Paul will just be glad when their remodel is done, so they will have a functioning kitchen in their home.

Gove's Cove closed its Westlake sailboat brokerage business after almost 20 years. Houseboat neighbors noticed the sailboats began to disappear one weekend and then the sail, which advertised "Sail boats for Sale" and had served as a landmark along Westlake, was taken down.

Fairview

The **Log Foundation's** Jann McFarland reports on the snowstorm. "The big freeze: should be called the big freeze UP. Even old timers were caught with their faucets off! One person's freeze up quickly spread to others on the dock and on the Wandesforde dock a 30 foot section of the dock water system fell off. Sid McFarland & George Johnston were busy running from

dock to dock around the lake and Portage Bay trying to help people, although most had to wait until the thaw to get back their water as they were too far gone. Why does it only freeze when everyone is out of town?"

Jann & Sid McFarland (known as **Juanita & Cid** south of the border) were in Mazatlan for 6 weeks starting the beginning of November. They rendezvous with the same bunch of gringos from the NW every year. It's a big reunion as everyone flies in. They also have many friends among the locals. Friends, Segundo and Carman invited them to a tamale dinner. "It was so hot outside that our cervesas kept getting warm, but our perfect host just kept chucking them in the trash and opening more." The couple also ran into the same crazy group of houseboaters from the Columbia River in Oregon they hooked up with two years ago.

Dock **2025** welcomes new owners Arlene Fairfield, Linda Cook, and Ren Nanstad & Deb Woodbury as well as all of their cats. On **2019** Jamie Thurner & Mary Sue Galvin both celebrated their landmark 50th birthdays this fall with celebrations on the dock. The other big news from 2019 is that Dave Galvin shaved off his beard after 30 years and he now looks almost as young as his teenagers who inspired him to do it as they had never seen his face. Way to go, Dave!

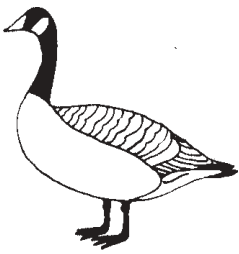
From Tenas Chuck Val Burgess sends a message,

"Hey all you floaters, get out of the city, explore new neighborhoods, discover city parks, hike National Forests, and take an Eagle Float trip. These are just some of the things to open our minds, arouse our senses, and to come alive. I wish to share this feeling of life with everyone. Please join me on our Tuesday walks and Friday hikes. The walks are not strenuous and the hikes are a good workout." Departure is at 7:30am from 2339 Fairview Ave. E. Call Val Burgess at 324-8473 or email at coachval@comcast.net

Random Acts of Kindness: Mallard Cove awoke to white after the "big snow" and the discovery that an anonymous samaritan had shoveled a path from the north end to the head of the dock. Soon after, anonymous shoveller #2 did the same thing for the south end, and by midday yet another had cleared off the rest of the from dock.

The children of the newest residents, Mark Guy and

next page...



... more Waterlog

Diann Barry responded to the snow like seasoned houseboaters. Instead of building snowmen, Connor and Andrew shook the snow off their red canoe and went “water plowing!”

Portage Bay

Betty Swift from **Shelby Group Moorage** comments on the winter weather. “Our dock had only a couple of cases of frozen pipes while a neighboring dock had only three houses on a dock of 12 that weren’t frozen.” Betty suggests the most successful way to avoid the cold weather problems is the casual agreements between neighbors — folks who have each other’s keys and let each other know when they are leaving town. Helpful too, is being aware of the idiosyncrasies of one another’s houses.

Kirvil Skinnarland and **Alan Hunt** on the Shelby Group Moorage traveled for a month in East Africa last summer. They visited Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. Their visit to the chimpanzee sanctuary on Ngamba Island, in Lake Victoria was a highlight. On a guided jungle walk they enjoyed the company of about 15 young chimpanzees who ran out of the bush, jumped up and crawled all over them. In the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda, the couple visited a preserve for Mountain Gorillas. Their group hiked for three hours through some very rugged terrain to reach the **Gorillas**. “We sat for an hour about 25 feet away from the gorillas, who watched us watching them.” Alan also climbed Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet). It was a trip of 7 1/2 days; 5 1/2 days up and 1 1/2 days down. Everyone is required to have a guide, but Alan chose a route no other climbers with that guide service chose. “So I climbed alone, except for my guide and four porters, all of whom spoke Swahili. A couple of them knew about 20 words of English. This more difficult route wasn’t as challenging as I had feared. Also, the guides lead very slowly up the mountain, to reduce the incidence of altitude sickness. About 75% of climbers don’t make the summit, most because they have little previous climbing experience and are intimidated by the potential difficulties...Some are unlucky and are overcome with nausea and headaches...” One of the hardest aspects of the climb was eating the **very large quantities of very British food** prepared by the porters. Alan’s camp included a sleeping tent and a dining tent where each morning he was served a breakfast that included porridge, a liter of tea,

toast, sausage, eggs, and melon! Dinner was even more elaborate. Meanwhile Kervil visited a Masai private reserve tent camp, where she was able to go out with a couple of Masai and walk about the countryside and view animals. At night she could hear the leopards wandering about outside the tent. There was nothing to worry about because an **elderly Masai warrior** was guarding the camp with a bow and arrow! On the trip into the Serengeti, Kirvil and Alan viewed plenty of animals but always from the safety of a jeep. Very strict rules and signs warning visitors not to leave the hotel grounds are posted everywhere. “Guess they don’t want you to get eaten!”

Last summer Jeanette Corkery, **2818 1/2 Boyer**, attended a 7-week Spanish immersion program at Middlebury College, in Vermont. She says, “There are lots of good things about the program. Chief among these is ‘La Palabra de Honor’, which all participants must sign ON ARRIVAL at the school, in which they promise to speak, write, read, listen, think, and dream only in Spanish.” Jeanette believes her writing abilities in Spanish improved but she is unsure about her conversational abilities.

From **Boat Street Moorage**, Susan Susor writes that she went to Guatemala on a Medical Mission with Rotoplast International. She was part of a team that does reconstructive surgery on indigent children and adults. Also, congratulations to Susan and Tom who celebrated their 20th anniversary in December.

North Lake Union

At **Lee’s Moorings** Sally Weems reports that they had only one frozen connection affecting one houseboat during the snowstorm. “But then a burst pipe got us all. Our plumbers fixed it after dark, bless them.” Regarding the bad weather, Sally thinks people turn out with a lot of neighborhood spirit for winter problems. Sally commented on our local wild life, “I could swear I saw a beaver working at the land end of Log Foundation docks. And I am surprised to see the large numbers of **cormorants flocking** and fishing together. There are very few geese to be seen, and that’s fine with me. Nevertheless, I have a thicket of branches up to protect my roof garden during mating season!”

Waterlog

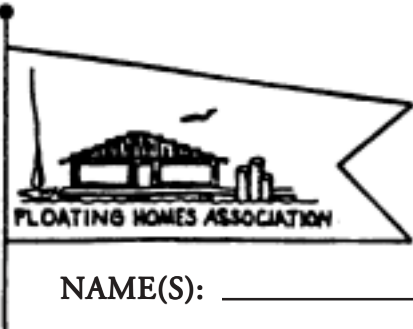
Thanks to all the dock contacts who so diligently report dock activities and houseboater travels. Have we missed interesting doings on your moorage? Got a story you want to report? **Phone Marilyn** at 324.1257 or email at <isobel.rob@earthlink.net>.



'Heron'
Beth Means

Floating Homes Association
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11/02



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