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FLOATING HOMES
ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 152

Newsletter

SUMMER 2007



“Come Here Often?”

PARTY!! PARTY!! PARTY!!

CRUISE PARTY ON THE VIRGINIA V AUGUST 16TH!!

**Capacity Limited to 140 Tickets!
RSVP Now!**

By Sheri Greaves

The Floating Homes Association invites you to their third biennial summer cruise party aboard the Virginia V on Thursday, August 16th. Please join us for an evening of dancing, great food and drink, and socializing with other houseboaters from around the Lake & Portage Bay.

Boarding will begin at 6:00 pm at the foot of Terry Avenue North at the Heritage Wharf behind the Armory Building near The Center for Wooden Boats. There should be free parking available at the Armory Building, paid parking across the street from South Lake Union Park on Valley Street, and additional parking on neighboring streets.

The boat will leave the dock promptly at 6:30 pm for a cruise of Lake Union, Portage Bay, and Lake Washington. The Lake Union Café will be catering the event with a yummy assortment of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and wine and beer will be provided — all included in the ticket price.

The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. If you are not a member currently and would like to join and save the \$5, there is a flyer in

this newsletter for you to do just that.

After three wonderful hours of cruising, eating, drinking, visiting with friends, and dancing up a storm to the music of the Lake Union House Wreckers Band, the Virginia V will return to the dock at 9:30 pm and the party ends at 10:00 pm.

Ticket sales are limited to the first 140 people, so get your reservation in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call Jann at 206.323.3489. See you on the 16th!!

WHEN: Thursday, August 16th

WHERE: South Lake Union Aboard the Virginia V

WHO'S INVITED: All Houseboaters

TIME: 6:00 - 10:00 PM

COST: FHA Members - \$50, Non Members - \$55

INCLUDES: Food, Drinks and *Live Music!*

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Yes, I would like to attend the August 16th FHA Party on the Virginia V!

Number of FHA member attendees: _____ (**\$50 each**)

Number of non-member attendees: _____ (**\$55 each**)

Total Amount Enclosed (check only, made payable to FHA): \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Please include this form & your check (payable to FHA) for the appropriate amount per person & send to: Floating Homes Association: 2329 Fairview Ave E., Seattle, WA 98102. Payment secures your entrance; we are limited to the first 140 people. Send your check today!



Summer 2007

The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E
Seattle, WA 98102

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(2466 WL)

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

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Emily Hine (2766 WL)

Giff & Mary Jones (2600 FV)

Mark Koenig (2420 WL)

Tiffany McNamara (2031 FV)

Marilyn Robertson

(2920 Fuhrman)

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Now and Then

Newsletter: **Marilyn,
Jann, Bill**



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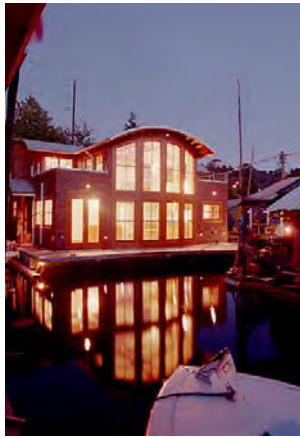
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To see more of Megan's photos, go to www.megansmithphotography.com

Please visit seattlefloatinghomes.org/news.asp

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Association Standing Committee Reports



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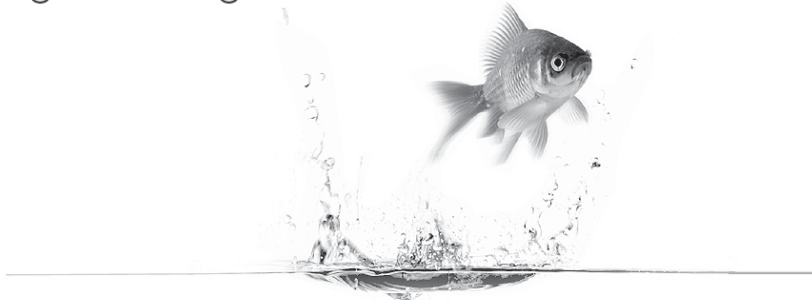


Legislative & Legal

Sheri Greaves, Chair

The Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatics Program is in the process of developing a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for all state-owned aquatic lands for coverage under the Endangered Species Act. DNR asked to meet with interested FHA members on July 23, to discuss how the agency can work with the FHA to establish conservation measures for floating homes in the HCP that will adequately deal with impact on covered species that use the aquatic habitat of Lake Union. A meeting was held as the FHA newsletter was going to press. Please check for updates to this issue on the FHA website.

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Security & Safety

Giff Jones
Tiffany McNamara
Co-Chairs

It's happened again: A Lake Union fire has directly threatened the lives and property of Seattle's houseboat community. With eerie *deja vu*, Lake Union's southernmost houseboat dock, adjacent to NOAA, and most threatened by the NOAA fire just a year ago, was again engulfed in smoke, but this time from one of its own.

The afternoon of June 22, aboard Bill Bloxom's second-from-the-end houseboat, an antiquated, long-forgotten, and worn-thin 48 volt telephone cable finally gave way to 60 years of log-tossed chafing, heating the 10 gauge copper wire to its 1,984 degrees F melting point. Arcing of the still-live circuit overheated the adjacent structure under the houseboat flooring resulting in another multi-alarm fire spreading smoke, fear, and evacuation pandemonium throughout the nearby Fairview houseboat community.

The bitterest "yet again" pill was the response time of the fire boat. A Police Harbor Patrol boat arrived just minutes after the 911 call. The Fire Department boat also arrived in minutes; FORTY minutes that is, much to the probable frustration of the brave firefighters trying to connect up to the nearest hydrant hundreds of yards away. Bloxom will likely rebuild. Now our public safety confidence must be rebuilt as well.

There is hope. Fire Chief Gregory Dean recently stated publicly his intent to place a STAFFED fireboat inside the locks. Next is to see that it gets located nearby where it can respond as quickly as the Police boat, to our under-protected houseboat community. Stay tuned. — **Giff Jones**

FLASH

The Seattle Fire Department has offered to conduct training on your dock in prevention and hands-on use of your equipment. To make group arrangements, contact Helen Fitzpatrick at the SFD Public Information Office, (206) 386-1463 or email helen.fitzpatrick@seattle.gov



Photo by Rick Miner

The Seattle Fire Department on land quickly responded with their engine trucks and took over from the Police Boat to bring the fire under control. They are shown here venting the fire out the roof as smoke billows everywhere. The Police Boat and neighbors watered down nearby houseboats to keep the fire from spreading.

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Association Standing Committee Reports

Communications

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

Are You Interested In Losing Weight?

I'm sure you know the importance of the newsletter in recording the history of our Association. It is our ambition to create an available resource about our community as well as providing information to the larger community. The FHA, through its new archiving project, has

been sorting and counting issues of the newsletter and has set guidelines for preserving a sufficient number of each issue.

We continue to search for old FHA newsletters in order to create several complete sets beginning with the first issue on 19 March 1963. At this point only one complete, original set exists. The more issues we get from you increases the number of original sets, and fewer issues will have to be photocopied.

The early years are in very short supply.

#1, March 29, 1963 to #67 June 1976. 85 % of those issues are missing!


Many issues from Dec 1976 through 1979 are missing.

I find it surprising that in the years from 1980 to 1999 there are missing issues.

#90	Oct Nov 1981
#91	May 1984
#104	Apr 1987
#109	Sept 1988
#110	Dec 1988
#120 Holiday	1992
#129 Spring	1997
#133 Spring	1999

Please look through your collection of newsletters. If you have very early issues or a copy of the above missing issues, do consider making a donation of those issues to the FHA. Think of how much lighter your houseboat will be!

Thank you for any help you can give the association. Call Marilyn at 324.1257 or email at isobel.rob@earthlink.net. — Marilyn Robertson, FHA 'Amateur' Archivist



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Environmental

Bob Bowman, Chair

One of the Environmental Committee's goals for this year was to partner with other environmental organizations to promote stewardship of our backyard waterways. One result of our collaboration efforts is the Seattle Audubon article in this edition of the Newsletter. Our plan is to have continuing Audubon Newsletter articles about birds, waterfowl and our shoreline natural environment. The articles will promote the protection of our waterways and urban shoreline wildlife. Let us know if you have a particular subject or topic on which you would like an article.

Over the next few years, King County will be making decisions about sewer improvements affecting Lake Washington Ship Canal water quality. At this time there is diluted wastewater

overflowing into the Canal, Lake Union and other waterways during large rainstorms – these are called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). The County and City are fine-tuning some completed projects along east and west Lake Union. The Environmental Committee will be meeting with King County in July to learn more about the upcoming CSO projects. I will provide updated information, if any. Check the FHA website and future Newsletters. Meanwhile, you can get more information from the King County Metro website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/cso/>.

Pat Sampson, a Committee member, has come up with the idea of developing an "Adopt a Shoreline" program modeled after the successful "Adopt a Street" program. The Committee plans to pursue this idea with the City of Seattle. We don't know if the idea will fly, but we will let you know what comes of it.

Before closing, I want to welcome the newest member of the Environmental Committee, Susan Susor. Let me know if you are interested in joining the Committee or would like to be a dock representative for communicating with members. You can contact me at bobbowman2@msn.com.

Floating Home Community Turns Out To Sweep the Lake and Portage Bay

By Bob Bowman

The 5th Annual Lake Union Sweep, organized by Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, was a huge success! The Floating Homes Association is one of the sponsors of this annual event. This year's cleanup of Lake Union and Portage Bay resulted in the largest trash pick-up and most volunteers participating ever.

The Houseboat Community assisted in breaking both those records. We had a total of 39 houseboat folks register on Sweep day – 23 at South Lake Union and 16 at Portage Bay. In addition to that, we had six docks sign up for debris removal from houseboat dock waterways and shorelines.

Environmental Committee members signed in houseboaters at the event and handed out FHA baseball caps to all our volunteers. Houseboaters then took to the water in kayaks and small motorboats or cleaned-up along the shoreline and houseboat docks. I was aboard the Puget Soundkeeper patrol boat collecting debris from the houseboat docks. I can verify that floating homes residents contributed substantially to the more than 6600 pounds of trash collected from the water and shoreline that day. Also, there was plenty of food and fun at the celebration immediately following the event.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for this year's Sweep. We plan to have even more houseboater volunteers next year. See you next May!

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Floating Home Website Receives Facelift

By Emily Hine

We are very pleased to announce that the Floating Homes Association Website is finally getting a facelift. After extensive work on redesigning the 45 year old Floating Homes logo, the Board is now focusing on a new and improved website (<http://seattlefloatinghomes.org/>). With the help of web designer, Heidi Hackler of Dolphin Design, the new website will have an entirely new look and feel. "We are very pleased with the simplicity of the design that Heidi created for us using the new logo," said FHA Board President Bill Keasler. "We don't need a lot of bells and whistles, but we do need a site that is easy to navigate by both our old-timers who are still getting used to the web and by our more technically savvy community members."

Besides a new facelift, once the website is complete, users can anticipate finding more up to date information on the site including, breaking news such as the June 2007 fire on one of The Log Foundation docks and the winter storm of 2006 that so greatly impacted the Willow Dock. In addition, with the extraordinary volunteer help of Sheryl Landon from Log Foundation and FHA President Bill Keasler, the site will have new functionality that will allow members to sign up to receive emails that are of interest to them, such as Dock Watch updates, legislative updates, the newsletter and other general floating homes community information.

Those of you who have used the site in the past can expect easier navigation to find important information about the FHA Community, emergency numbers, resources to help you main-



Sample of Home Page for FHA's new web site.

tain your houseboats and information about upcoming events such as the Virginia V cruise on August 16th. The website will continue to boast about our rich history through a more in-depth archive section, while also addressing the ever-changing

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environmental issues in our backyard we care so deeply about. Finally, you can continue to purchase your favorite old or new customized Houseboatique items online.

As always, our efforts are volunteer driven and therefore happen in our own sweet volunteer time. But, we hope to have the new site up and running by late summer! If not, check back frequently at <http://seattlefloatinghomes.org/> and do send us feedback to help us best serve our community members like you.

For more information, please visit: <http://seattlefloatinghomes.org/> or email emilyhine@comcast.net.

HOUSEBOATIQUE



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

Mary Jones displays FHA Tote Bag

By Jann McFarland

The addition of Café Press has increased the variety of Houseboatique items available and has several different design lines. You can go to Café Press from the FHA web site www.seattlefloatinghomes.org then click on Houseboatique and then Café Press Houseboatique where you can view available merchandise as well as place an order. You can also view some of the items stocked at the office on the web site. To purchase those items, you can call Jann McFarland at 206.323.3489 to set up an appointment.

At the Annual FHA meeting in April, Giff & Mary Jones exhibited a wonderful array of samples of some of the new items that can be ordered from Café Press. They also sold FHA's regular items from a very well-stocked booth. Everyone was interested in seeing all of the new possibilities and members shopped the expanded Houseboatique for meeting night "specials".

In December FHA will be having their usual Holiday Sale from the office – probably over two weekends. Watch for a flyer to be sent in the mail announcing the dates some time in November.

A Walk with the Mayor

By Melissa Ahlers



Photo from Melissa Ahlers

Board members meet with Mayor Nickels.

Working to keep our community in the eye of the mayor's office, Emily Hine, Mark Koenig and I met with Mayor Greg Nickels to discuss our houseboat community's concerns on his recent tour of South Lake Union. Starting off on a positive note, Emily thanked him for the work to get the fireboat on Lake Union and for continuing to work with the fire and police department unions to ensure shorter fire response times. Then we moved onto other meaningful topics: the increasing neighborhood density and its effects, parking issues, and discussions of keeping the lake a working lake. Mark, a Westlake houseboater, spoke eloquently to the fact that as density increases, infrastructure, and parking issues need to be addressed so parking problems are not pushed into the neighborhoods. My task was to ask for clear proposals for the Floating Homes to respond to — to which a challenge was issued: What do we want our community to be? We need to define it for ourselves, make our own proposals, and work towards that vision.

The call to action got us thinking, that for the first time in our history, we are no longer fighting to stay on the lake. We are an integral part of Seattle, we are a tourist attraction, some homes are among the highest price per square foot real estate in the city, yet, at the heart, we are a little bohemian community just trying to dip a toe in the water. The city is changing around us and as we move toward the future, the questions will be posed: What do we want for the floating homes community? How can we work with our dockmates and people in the neighborhoods to embrace the change that is happening and make it work for us? With this in mind, as the new website kicks off, please participate in the discussions and let us know your thoughts!

Westlake Parking Update

By Phil Bannon and Ann Bassetti

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) changed its original plan to install pay parking along the entirety of the 1.7 mile long parking area of Westlake Avenue North. Because of nearly unanimous disapproval by the community, SDOT agreed to collaborate with community representatives to forge a new plan to improve chances of finding a parking place during peak periods.

Phil Bannon (2814 WLN) and Ann Bassetti (2420 WLN) along with a dozen others, half a dozen SDOT people and two hired consultants slogged through months of meetings, countless ideas and hundreds of emails. The result is an innovative mixture of free, free time-limited and pay-by-space parking in the 1,200 spaces along Westlake N.

The plan was presented to the public at the Lake Union armory building July 11. It drew few major objections, raised only a few questions and is set to be in place in September. The details, not yet final, can be viewed at:

http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/pystation_westlake.htm

SDOT will continue to collect parking data and remain

involved with the community to make future adjustments to better serve the diverse needs of 1,000 plus daily Westlake parking users.

It became clear that Westlake North is only 1.7 miles of the larger 14-mile freshwater shoreline ecosystem that stretches from the Locks to the Montlake cut. Ideally, we would like the City to be sensitive to the economics, interdependencies, and special qualities of the whole area. To that end, the City advised us to look into establishing a special 'economic overlay zone', similar to what has been done in other unique areas, such as the Pike Place Market. One goal would be to identify our delicate mixed-use marine environment as a special place, a place to be protected and preserved in Seattle's future urban planning. And to create a representative group the City can turn when there are issues specific to this area.

We are aware there is the Lake Union Council; a marina operators' group; and of course the Floating Homes Association. We do not know of one group that has a collective vision for the whole fresh water ecosystem. Ann would be pleased to hear from anyone who has interest in such an endeavor. (anngenewa@yahoo.com)

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Stress Management

By Matthew Smith, DC

Stress is a normal part of our every day life and how you react to stress is one of the keys to reducing stress. When asked, many people say they feel burned out; they have no bounce-back time, decreased decompression time, and increase in the frequency of stress. This stress results in aging faster, sleeplessness, and increased irritability. It is an epidemic in America, leading to increased absenteeism, and increased medical costs. **Treating Stress is more difficult than preventing it.**

How do you prevent it? First, you have to recognize it. A lot of stress comes from **major changes in lifestyle** such as a new job, family problems, or death in the family. Other causes can relate to **changes in health habits** brought on by smoking, alcohol, and/or drug use, staying up late, feeling overwhelmed, and depressed. Then there is the feeling of being pulled in too many different directions at once such as the baby crying, dog barking, phone ringing, boss yelling, and computer glitches. **STOP!**

Finding a solution. Some ways to avoid hassles: have a key rack, get organized, car pool, get up earlier, write down the things that need to be addressed, have people to vent stresses to, develop hobbies that allow you to let off steam, volunteer for something to improve your self esteem.

We need to relax, but how?

Deep breathing, clear the mind, stretching, positive attitude, exercise, and nutrition.

Deep breathing switches your response from stress reaction to relaxation. Try to inhale slowly through the nose, expanding the stomach as much as possible, and exhale through the mouth, repeat 3-4 times.

Floating Homes Events Calendar		
Date	Event	Location
11 August noon - 10:00 pm	LakeFest Neighborhood Festival, with kid's kite-building and Pet Parade	Rogers Field and Seward School. Parade Reg: 10:30 -11:00 at N Courtyard, Seward School. Parade 11:00 - 2:30. Costumes, kids w/o pets welcome, too. cleman@oo.net or 306.322.5463 for info
16 August 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	FHA Summer Cruise	See Page 2 for details.
21 August Earlier than ever this year.	Election Day Primary Election for City Council and School Board.	By mail or your polling place.
9 October 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Eastlake Community Council Annual Meeting	TOPS - Seward School. Candidate Forum City Council and School Board. Annual Elections.

Give your mind a mental break, take time to collect your thoughts and shift priority. Reduce distractions, noise, & interruptions. Relax, sit comfortably; loosen clothes, close eyes, breathe deeply. Focus on a thought, a word, or an image; try to maintain focus without distraction.

Stretching is helpful in relieving muscle tension, increasing flexibility of the back, neck, shoulder/arm, upper body, full body.

Exercise — people who are physically fit handle stress better.

Positive Attitude, self-talk, tell yourself you “can”.

Nutrition — your body is your temple, where else are you going to live? Plan meals ahead, prepare them on Sunday for the week ahead. Junk foods are refined sugars, low in nutrition and high in calories. Food is your body's fuel.

The key to stress is to recognize where it is in your life, and meet it head on through the methods mentioned. Give the body time to refresh its self. Slow down and enjoy your leisure time, sometimes do nothing at all.

Do not cram things to do, all on your day off. Go to bed at a reasonable hour – especially if you feel stressed.

Dr. Matt practices in a clinic on Eastlake and contributes to our newsletter from time to time. Look for his ad elsewhere in this issue.





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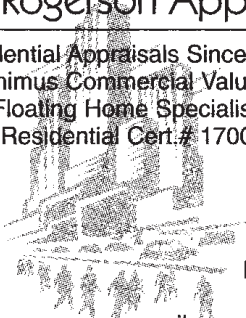
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Seattle Floating Homes Association 45th ANNUAL MEETING



Raffle prize presenters Melissa Ahlers, Mary Jones and Giff Jones pull another winning ticket.



Environmental Committee Chair, Bob Bowman and Chris Wilke, from Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, discuss upcoming 'Clean Sweep' of Lake Union and Portage Bay.

By Jann McFarland

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Floating Homes Association was held on Tuesday, April 24th at the South Lake Union Armory. After being welcomed and signing in at the door, attendees were given raffle tickets with prizes to come from the Houseboatique.

This year the Board extended the “social hour” to give people more chance to mingle while they ate & drank the complementary refreshments. It also gave folks more time to look at the Houseboatique items on display, the NW Seaport exhibit, and other booths.

Melissa Ahlers hosted and along with the excellent Power Point presentation prepared by Board member, Emily Hine, kept the meeting running smoothly. President Bill Keasler welcomed everyone and then the special program began.

Guest speakers, Debbie Goetz from SNAP (Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare) spoke about preparing for unexpected regional disasters and Matthew Stubbs, a Community Involvement Specialist spoke about the Maritime Heritage at the new South



Guest speaker, Debbie Goetz, with Board member, Giff Jones.

Lake Union Park that is currently under construction.

The Committee Chairs then gave brief reports on what had been accomplished the prior year and what is coming up in the near future. Bob Bowman and his Environmental Committee encouraged participation in the May 12th Lake Union Sweep.

Board elections were held. Then Mary & Giff Jones with help from Melissa, who drew the tickets, announced the winning raffle ticket numbers and several happy folks left with prizes including a bottle of Houseboat White and a tote bag.

For more information and resources to follow up on the guest speakers, additional info on the Committee reports, and lots of photos, you can go to www.seattlefloatinghomes.org.

All photos by Marilyn Robertson.

WORDS ON BIRDS

By Alex Morgan

The fresh and salt waters of the Puget Trough are some of the richest and most bio diverse in the entire state of Washington. These areas are also home to millions of human inhabitants and the fastest growth in the state. Lakes, streams, wetlands and riparian areas are some of the most important habitat areas for birds and other wildlife. These areas provide critical shelter, water and important feeding grounds for a wide variety of bird species, both common and rare.

As inhabitants of waterways, lakes, and waterfronts in the area, we have the unique opportunity to observe some of the birds that make this area so special. The more common bird species we view on Lake Union are seldom seen by people who live further away from the water.

The Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and Double-crested Cormorant are rather common birds that demonstrate the health of our region's waters. Where they are present, fish and healthy ecosystems abound. As their numbers dwindle they become beacons of deteriorating ecosystem health.

As the official City Bird of Seattle, Great Blue Herons are often seen standing motionless at the edge of a wetland pond or the coastal shore. It is one of the best-known and easily recognized birds in Washington State. In flight, the Great Blue Heron's large size, broad wings, and bent neck make it almost unmistakable, and we often observe this species at water's edge near the Arboretum or throughout the Ship Canal within close proximity to the nesting colony at Kiwanis Ravine.

The Double-crested Cormorant is the only Washington cormorant likely to be seen in fresh water. Double-crested Cormorants are common year round, both on the coast and throughout inland waters of western Washington. While feeding, these cormorants dive from the water's surface to pursue prey underwater, propelled by powerful, webbed feet. After a bout of foraging, they may be seen on exposed perches with their wings spread, drying their feathers (as seen in the photo).

Belted Kingfishers are found along shorelines and wetlands in fresh and salt-water environments. Often times, kingfishers can be heard with their loud dry rattle of a call before they can be spotted. Kingfishers perch or hover over open water, watching for prey. Once prey is sighted, they dive headfirst into the water and seize it with their bills.

Kingfishers are common year round — as long as there is open water and plenty of small fish to feed upon.

Regardless of what time of year it is, you can find these three symbolic bird species around the waterways of the Puget Sound and Seattle. In a future issue you can learn steps to take to protect these species and others. For more information about each of these species and the rest of the bird species of Washington State, please visit Seattle Audubon's online guide to the birds of Washington at www.birdweb.org.

Alex Morgan is Conservation Director for Seattle Audubon.



Photo by Paul Bannick

To find more images by this photographer, visit www.paulbannick.com

Belted Kingfisher.



Photo by Lee Karney

Double Crested Cormorant, frequently seen on Lake Union and Portage Bay.

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Lilly Pad

By Bob Lilly

THE TOMATO

If you want to have a truly summer experience, grow your own tomatoes. Let them get dead-ripe on the plant (a slight but noticeable yield to pressure from thumb and index finger indicates the tomato is ready for harvest). Cut tomatoes in slices with a very sharp knife and serve, on a hot summer evening with a bit of salt, chopped fresh basil (you can grow that also), and a splash of good olive oil. Ecstasy!

Although commercial “on the vine” tomatoes are very good, home grown is still better. The best ones for the “dead-ripe plate” are **Patio, Early Girl** and any of the ones from Oregon State University in Corvallis with names like **Oregon Spring, Willamette** and **Siletz** (a river on the coast). These tomatoes are all small-size and short season, so you can get good ripe fruit about the size of a Japanese (round) plum during any summer. The greenhouse grown “on the vine” tomatoes are all bred for that purpose, grown in very high-tech greenhouses that train the vines on wires. Although the plants can be 60 feet long, they are at eye level so the fruit is easily picked. These crops are so valuable, the seed is insured to type.

You can grow your tomatoes in large pots: plastic, wood or ceramic, in full sun if possible, although reflected light for part of the day is OK. Each plant needs about a cubic foot of soil and a tomato cage or lots of stakes to support the plant. Try to use fresh soil or pots where tomatoes, peppers, eggplant or potatoes were not grown the year before. Add some form of calcium each year. I use Azomite but it comes in 6 pound boxes and you don’t need much, about a tablespoon per pot. This reduces Blossom End Rot, a common problem in some tomatoes, especially the Heirloom varieties.

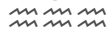
Liquid feed is best once a week. Use it a little more often if you use an organic feed. Never get the foliage wet! Do not let tomatoes wilt. They will wilt on hot days, so I water every day, and on the warmest days if the soil is damp in the morning, the tomatoes still get a watering. On those hot days the plants get checked again at 6pm by me or my neighbor.

If you are windy and far from shore, you may need to pollinate your plants. Tomatoes are self-fruitful, but bees help. Just flick the flowers with your index finger about as hard as trying to shoot popcorn across a wood floor.

I get my starts from a friend who grows 60 varieties each year, and from vendors at the farmers’ markets or plant sales. Usually I buy 10 to 12 inch plants in 4 inch pots. Plant out tomatoes after May 1st if you live close to shore and are protected. If your houseboat is windy, planting should be done after May 15th. Put tomato cages around plants immediately. Tomatoes are one of the few plants you can transplant deeper than in the original pot; you can cover the stems with 2 or more inches of soil. The only other plants that tolerate this treatment are marigolds and coastal redwood trees!



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Note: the labels will say “indeterminate” which means climbing plant or “determinate” which are bush types that need little pruning of suckers.

Note: Short season tomatoes are best in western Washington as our summers can be a bit cool. Look for 80 days or less on the plant label or when shopping in the catalog. For example: **Early Girl** is less than 75 days. **New Girl** is 62 days and **Beefsteak** is 105 days or more, so skip the Beefsteak. Instead, get those big slicers at the Farmers Market in the University District.

If you want to grow Heirloom (older varieties of tomatoes), here are some of the more common types available.

Taxi - produces a large crop of plum sized yellow fruit. Note: yellow tomatoes are lower in acid content.

Stupice - from Czechoslovakia, produces mid-size two ounce fruit early in season, and produces well.

Silvery Fir Tree - a dwarf with lacy leaves, but produces lots of 4 ounce+ fruit.

Soldacki - a Polish heirloom, 10 ounce+, flat ribbed fruit, great flavor, produces well and has unusual broad leaves.

Oregon Spring - from Oregon State University, large fruit on a large plant, good for our area.

Purple Russian (Purple Plum) - oval, squat, teardrop shaped fruit, 4 inches long and up to 6 ounces. This tomato plant is a heavy producer of purplish black and red fruit, with great taste and thick skin.

Red Bobs- new this year for me and I could not resist “pint sized Beefsteaks.”

Patio- the standard tomato for pots with lots of slightly larger than golf ball sized fruit, excellent when very

ripe.

Early Girl or **New Girl** - this is a very early, short season plant, an advantage in Western Washington.

GreenGrape - grow this cherry sized tomato for the flavor; when fully ripe it is still green!

Sun Gold - an organic gold cherry tomato with intense flavor. This plant produces a tremendous amount of fruit.

Red Currant - not much bigger than a very small grape, a charming novelty with great flavor.



Photo from Bob Lilly

One day's crop of tomatoes from Texas Chuck, Summer 2006.

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What Does The FHA Do for You?

Compiled By Jann McFarland

People new to the floating homes community sometimes ask those questions. You receive a newsletter and all other communications the Association sends out whether you are a member or not. You can come to the Annual Meeting whether you are a member or not. You may think you will never need the Association and perhaps you never will – but if you DO need help some day, they will be there to back you whether you are a member or not. So why join?

Here are some thoughts about those questions from some of the FHA Board members:

“FHA connects me to the people & causes closest to me, literally! We are a unique group of people who have a wonderful lifestyle. And, sometimes there are challenges with preserving that lifestyle.

FHA serves as an advocate for our collective community when we need to have a collective voice.

FHA works with the state legislature to preserve our rights.

FHA helps our docks that might be facing the scary proposition of expired leases or owner turnover.

FHA keeps me informed of interesting things going on with the wonderful, eclectic people in my watered-down backyard.

In short, FHA does the stuff that needs to be done so we can go on living exactly where we want to live.” **Emily Hine**

“It is worth being a member of the FHA because as floating home dwellers we have common interests, concerns and vulnerabilities that are better addressed through group effort. Individuals alone have a more difficult time monitoring all issues all of the time.” **Tiff McNamara**

“Are we lucky or what? We live in America, we live in the Pacific Northwest, we live in Seattle – and the most unique thing of all – we live on floating homes in the middle of this beautiful city!! But the fact that there are still houseboats in Seattle is not due to luck. Without the FHA, we most assuredly would not be enjoying houseboat life today! And without the continuation of the FHA, we may not be able to live this lifestyle tomorrow! That’s why I’m a member of the Floating Homes Association, and that’s why I hope you are too.” **Bob Bowman**

“The FHA is a great deal because the board and committee members do the legwork for different houseboat issues that individuals may not have the time, patience, or resources to research themselves. Most of these issues are vital to houseboat life, such as watching the legislature for bills affecting the sale of docks, working on disaster and evacuation plans that can be adopted by individual docks or co-ops and fighting legal battles to ensure that houses keep their moorages. We also work constantly to assure the lake is a clean, pleasant place to live and we work to build relationships with government and other non-profit entities so that anyone in the community can rely on that support network should they need it.”

Amalia Walton

“The FHA is a constant and vigilant advocate for all houseboaters on all issues affecting them. All houseboaters need to know that the FHA is here ‘to protect, promote and preserve our/their colorful community’. The FHA is an all volunteer Board that puts in a LOT of time attempting to keep our community healthy, thriving, growing and informed. That’s a lot of bang for your buck!” **Mary Jones**

“The legal standing provided to floating homes has always been fickle at best. Since its inception, the FHA has been our first line of defense against those who would do away with our homes or change the nature of the lake. It seems that every ten years or so, some new opposition to floating homes appears. An active FHA membership ensures we’re ready for the next challenge.” **Mark Koenig**

“FHA ADVOCATES for you against threats from development and local government.

FHA provides structure for enhancing community experience.

FHA HOUSEBOATIQUE provides great houseboat stuff to buy!”

Giff Jones

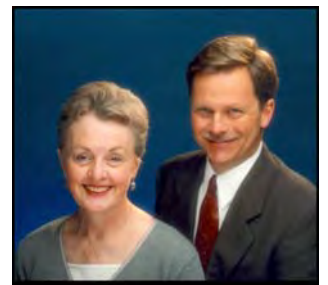
“The Floating Homes Association has been here to protect our homes for 45 years. It gives me great peace of mind to know that FHA is diligent to possible threats and ready to jump in at any time if one develops. The FHA has built support over the years from our legislators and that is a huge benefit for our community. Even though things seem stable right now, something could change tomorrow. Everyone should support FHA by joining. It’s worth every penny and more.” **Sheri Greaves**

So, do you want to join? You can send in the form on the back of the newsletter. FHA looks forward to welcoming you! If your dock or homeowner association joins as a group, they can take a ten percent discount on the membership price. Please have your treasurer call Jann McFarland at 323-3489 for details.

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SAVE NOAA ON LAKE UNION

By Chris Leman

NOAA's Pacific Marine Center July 4, 2006 fire was a setback, but we must defeat the Port of Bellingham's aggressive lobbying campaign to take advantage of the situation. They got the Alaska Ferry; let's not let them take NOAA! In December the Seattle City Council responded with Resolution 30940 (<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us>), and in July Mayor Nickels and the Port of Seattle wrote to NOAA and Congress. But letters from the public have been few, and are needed urgently.

NOAA ships descend from ships of the U. S. Survey of the Coast, which received its charter from President Thomas Jefferson in 1807 and is the nation's oldest scientific and technical agency. Survey of the Coast ships began operations in the Seattle area and Puget Sound in the late 1800s, establishing a permanent office in 1898 in the Bailey Building (on the southwest corner of 2nd and Cherry, and now on the National Register of Historic Places).

These ships, so crucial to navigation and to science, found winter moorage in Puget Sound until completion of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks and the Lake Washington Ship Canal in 1916, and afterwards have been based in Lake Union, where they remain today at 1801 Fairview Avenue East. Seattle is the principal NOAA ship base in the Pacific Ocean and the center for marine charting and oceanographic research operations from the north coast of Alaska through the Bering Sea, the Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska, Puget Sound and off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii.

Just try to imagine Lake Union without those big, white ships! Then, today, please contact our senators (especially Cantwell, who's on the committee that deals with NOAA), and the NOAA Administrator. Because of the urgency, e-mail is best, but letters are OK, or send both. It wouldn't hurt to phone also. Emphasize NOAA's importance to our community and economy, and advantages of the Lake Union site such as fresh water, no tides, and closeness to the labs at NOAA and UW, the maritime yards and suppliers, and the homes of NOAA employees (who are often our neighbors and dedicated volunteers in community activities).

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Eastlake

Eastlake Community Council Report

By Chris Leman, ECC Secretary

Eastlake night at Louisa's. Thanks to Louisa's owners Luise and Michael Mooney for hosting the wonderfully low-key June 6 Eastlake night. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. Everyone loved it, so watch for posters on the next one.

Devin's van. The neighborhood rallied quickly with more than \$20,000 in June to buy a wheelchair lift van for Devin Cabbage, a ten-year old with cerebral palsy whose (unoccupied) van was totaled by an escaping criminal during a police chase. Devin and her parents were featured at the June 6 Eastlake night at Louisa's. For pictures of the new van, see <http://www.devin.freewebspace.com>. Thanks to all who contributed.

Heroic bartender. In Eastlake's first shooting in decades. Serafina Osteria & Enoteca's Miles Thomas took a bullet when he stopped a gunman from aiming at customers in the very early morning of June 6. Donations to Miles' recovery and expenses are nearing \$20,000, and are still welcome; checks should be made out to Miles Thomas and sent to Serafina, 2043 Eastlake Avenue East, Seattle 98102; for questions (206) 323-0807 or rachel@serafinaseattle.com.

Volunteer opportunities. The Eastlake Community Council builds community and enhances the neighborhood only with your help. We are all-volunteer, so donations of cash, stock, bequests, or real estate go a long way. Interested? Write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, clem@oo.net, or phone 322-5463. There are many volunteer opportunities.

Here are a few suggestions:

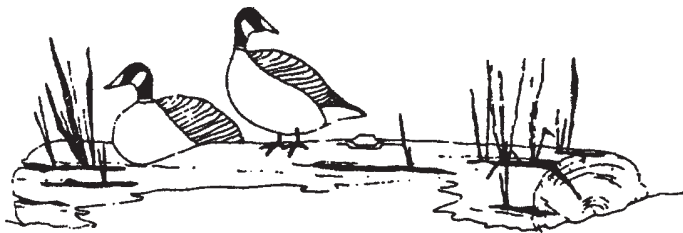
1. Nominate yourself or a friend to the ECC board of directors, which meets monthly on the second Wednesday; or help an ECC committee review land use projects or design traffic improvements; or distribute the Eastlake News on your dock or nearby.
2. Organize an Eastlake event such as an auction, tour, boat cruise, neighborhood-wide day of yard sales—or invent something new; do a movie or video about Eastlake, or record pioneers to preserve our irreplaceable history; Help organize a monthly arts walk! Stops so far include Patrick Howe Gallery (3200 Harvard Ave. E.); Open Door Studios (2731 Eastlake Ave. E.), and Eastlake Framing (2367 Eastlake Ave. E.).
3. Care for a park, shoreline, street, alley, graffiti-marred area, or other corner of creation.

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Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson

Before we visit houseboaters around the lake, I'd like to take a moment to mention the importance of cats in our community. My need to editorialize is brought on by the loss of kitties on several docks on Portage Bay and Lake Union. Our houseboat cats choose to reside among humans even when it means living in a floating environment. Cats tend to be quiet, loving companions. Houseboat cats are respectful neighbors, except for the occasional disregard of human imposed boundaries; a deck planter used as a potty comes to mind. Most houseboat cats make an effort to be sociable with other dock pets and usually tolerate the natural world so close at paw, although some succumb to rare instances of bird/mouse/rat/frog/fish offerings. Fortunately, owners, or should I say, the 'staff' of the cat, understand these gestures are 'cat gratitude'. So, who dares fault the cat?

Thelma, of Mallard Cove, **Giff & Mary Jones's**, much loved cat, died April 21, at age 14. Giff says, "Thelma, a rescue kitten, moved into the houseboat along with her sibling, "Louise" who was later re-named "Louie" for obvious reasons. Louie died three years ago. Thelma reigned as kitty queen sailing with us regularly. In 2001, she spent 5 months aboard during our sail to Alaska. Her sea legs were such, it took her two days to re-adapt to the houseboat."

Bob Kerr's sweet natured cat, **Mae Mae**, died under tragic circumstances in early July. Houseboat Harbor residents mourn her and grieve with her owner.

And at Log Foundation, **Andrea Wieland & Tim Easton's** beautiful and much loved 14 year old black cat, **Nefertari** or "**Tari**", passed away on April 30th. Part of her life was spent on their houseboat on Lake Union and part at their second home on San Juan Island. She was famous on her dock for catching small fish & crayfish and on San Juan would actually step into the water to fish for crabs & small fish. Tari is survived by her mother, Contessa and brother, William.

Jann & Sid McFarland lost 2 of their 3 adored, spoiled kitties within two days of each other in April. First, 18 year old Himalayan, **Blue Max** died on April 16th. A well-known party crasher on the dock, he, more than once, made a clean getaway with hunks of smoked salmon from some unsuspecting neighbors' table. Then on April 18th, 10-year old **Sundance**, aka "**Baby**" a flame point Himalayan/Manx with big blue eyes, died. He was a natural comedian and talker, giving a lot of "kitty lip" especially at meal times. He would eat most anything left out on the kitchen counter – once consuming most of a package of hotdog buns including the plastic packaging.

This past winter **Peter & Brigitte Erickson's** 17 year old calico cat, **Midnight** died of old age. Peter was taking her to the vet when she died in his arms on the dock. Then in mid June, they lost their other cat – 5 year old, sweet little **Frida** — named for Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Frida was a wild kitten that

showed up at their place in Oregon and became tame enough to be brought to the houseboat. She was a lovely animal with brown spots and no tail. It is thought she died from the tainted cat food being sold around that time.

Tui Tui: Waterlog spoke to **Robbie Rudine** about progress on Tui Tui winter storm damage. He reports, as of late June they haven't a settlement. "The adjustor had the temerity to suggest beavers had chewed in half our 4X6 walers that held the two sections of floating dock together...Because our tenant video taped 'our Galloping Gertie', the adjustor had to back down. So I guess I would recommend all docks video tape their infrastructure *status quo ante* any disaster and also try to record the wrathful acts of nature as they unfold. Perhaps we can all take climate change a bit seriously too."

Mallard Cove Quackings: Realtor **Melissa Ahlers** helped **Bill & Celia Fritz** sell their houseboat to **Marshall & Susan Bugge** who dropped in from Guemes Island. Ahlers then listed **Heidi & Andy Alhadeff's** houseboat, which quickly sold to **Bob Farra** who upon moving in, set up a permanent, "have a soft drink" cooler for the dock. Thanks Bob, and Welcome Aboard! Land-loathers **Steve & Laura Strockbine** really like being on the water. Their getaway home on Whidbey Island competes with a timeshare in Hawaii and they just returned from a spring visit to Scotland and England. Fisherman **Jim Caputo** provided the dock with fresh halibut from his recent outing off the west coast in his new 33' sport fisher. Seattle Yacht Clubber and dock president **Mike Massa** has been seen sneaking away on an occasional sailing vacation aboard his new Jeanneau 37'. Housebirders **Doug & Peggy Hanel** are frequent SeaTac sightings, flitting off to New York and Chicago to visit recently graduated attorney and journalist daughters. **Andy Mansell** is so often away selling airliner leases in far reaches of the globe, he has to re-introduce himself when he returns home. **Giff Jones** and **Barry Burgess** (Tenus Chuck) were joined by another hiking friend on a 12-day motorcycle camping trip highlighted by the 3-day "Kinetic Sculpture Race" from Arcata to Ferndale, CA. Mallard Cove construction projects are flourishing: **Mike Swofford** finished his renovation. His contractor moved on down the dock, doing a new roof deck for the Hanel, new siding for **Mark Guy & Diann Barry** and is already lined up to put a new roof deck on **Bob Farra's** houseboat. While the Jones' houseboat was getting a new facelift with 10 flotation barrels worth of HardiPlank siding, **Gus & Janet Schairer**, began tearing down their Vashon cabin hideaway and replacing it with a dream home and sculpture studio for Gus. Some of his stone sculptures are in public and private local collections. Gus says he will be the "Featured Artist" at the Edmonds Art Gallery (524 Main Street, Edmonds) during the Month of August. The opening reception will be Sunday, August 5th, from 1-5. Gus will unveil several new sculptures. Visit www.gusschairer.com for a sampling of his work.

Tenas Chuck: **Val & Bary Burgess** gave up houseboat life for island life. Bainbridge Island that is. Fortunately, Val will keep her "Tenderfoot Adventures". The hiking group is going strong and will keep Val connected to the houseboat community. They sold their award-winning Tenas Chuck houseboat to **Bob & Lorena Davis**. There are many little 'residents' on Tenas Chuck these days. **Paulene Quigley** says these kiddies expect to grow up on the water. Many of the parents have remodeled to make that possible.

The Lake Union: **Tiff McNamara** reports 2031 Fairview bids a sad adieu to **Steve Scheibe & Jan Thompson** who were

... more Waterlog



Phot by Marilyn Robertson

Jeri in Lock Up

One evening last summer Jeri Callahan found herself in an unfortunate predicament. She had just bathed and dressed for bed, eager to get to her bedtime book about sailing solo around the world. But when she tried to open the bathroom door, the aged glass doorknob refused to turn. The door wouldn't budge. Escape through the small bathroom window was impossible. She was locked in. Jeri peered through the window glass in search of human life, but it was 10 o'clock and no one was on the dock. She could see her neighbour, John's TV glowing blue through his window across the dock, and could hear voices. She raised the bathroom skylight and shouted, "Help, John. Help. I'm locked in my bathroom!" The TV lights continued to flicker. Drat. The voices were from the TV.

Jeri checked the window every 10 minutes, hoping someone might pass by.

If only she could put a sign in the window. "I grabbed my 'IMPEACH BUSH' sign, turned it over, and wrote 'HELP. I'M LOCKED IN.' in red lipstick and stuck it back in the window." She then realized the sign was hidden from view behind a basket of impatiens.

Jeri considered napping in the bathtub, but instead "I piled two small rugs and a bath mat on the floor and stretched out. By 11 o'clock I took another look through the window and saw John's houseboat was dark." She realized she was locked in for the night so she put a flannel nightgown over her summer one, closed the skylight, and found a large towel to use as a blanket. As the room got colder, she turned on the wall heater.

"I awoke to music and daylight. My radio alarm was playing. I knew I wouldn't be captive much longer. Within five minutes I heard footsteps and Andy Forrest walked by carrying his guitar case... I pounded on the window, and shouted, 'Andy. Help. I'm locked in the bathroom!' Andy stepped onto the porch and asked, 'Are you OK?' 'Yes. I'm OK. Just tell Dale. Or tell anyone! Just so someone knows.' ... " Dale Patterson, the dock handyman, appeared within minutes. He started "rattling, twisting and... in no time he had removed the doorknob and I was FREE.



Photo from Pauline Quigley

Children of Tenas Chuck. From Left to Right.

Top Row: Kepler Stanley-Hunt, Xiaoqiao Forrest, Anton Stanley Hunt, Lydia Eastlick, Theresa Eastlick.

Bottom Row: Tessabell Sheldon, Marlena Sheldon, Daisy Lerner, Samone Alberts, Arthur Eastlick.



Photo by Larry Logue

Great Wall, China.

longtime residents. We wish them well in their upcoming retirement. The good news is **Ray Fortuna & Emily Welch** love us so much they decided to make the leap from renting on our dock to buying Steve & Jan's houseboat. **Coco Hess** has come home for the summer and brought along friend Trish. And another houseboat on our dock was recently sold to **Kathy & Jared Hickman** who had rented a houseboat in Portage Bay. **Larry Logue** enjoyed another fantastic hiking adventure. This time he went to China to travel several difficult lengths of the Great Wall of China. **Brad & Tiff McNamara** are overjoyed to report **Brogan Miller McNamara** was born on May 23rd. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 20 & 1/4 inches long. Board members think he looks born to be a houseboater!



Photo from Tiff McNamara

Newborn Brogan McNamara.

Log Foundation: Jann McFarland reports Dock 2017 certainly has had more than its share of disasters and near misses this past year starting with the evacuation of residents during the NOAA fire a year ago, then having their dock badly damaged during the December windstorm, and now the latest, a fire on Houseboat “H”. **Bill Bloxom’s** houseboat caught fire on an otherwise

beautiful Friday evening in June — just about the time everyone was starting to relax for the weekend. (See related article by Giff Jones in his Safety & Security report.) Most of the fire happened under the flooring of Bill’s older classic houseboat where an ancient phone wire arced and caught fire. Suddenly there was a huge



Photo by Bob Burk

Bill Bloxom surveys the fire damage to his houseboat.

amount of smoke coming from under the house. It is amazing anything was left of the inside of the house. Bill posed for pictures the next day and seemed pretty philosophical about the event. He wrote to the FHA, “What a way to start the summer. Although I think everyone should have the experience of losing everything once in their life before they die and lose it all anyway, I am very concerned about badly exceeding my quota of greenhouse gas emissions and will likely have to continue to live as a veghead until age 197 to get back into compliance with the Kyoto accord....” Bill is worried these old phone wires could be under anyone’s house and hopes everyone will check their homes, so it doesn’t happen again. Bill’s next-door neighbor, **Neil Peterson** was

present during the fire, watering his house down hoping the fire wouldn’t spread. But Neil had another recent close call. He was the hiker, with his two grown children and a friend who were trapped in a crevasse by a rogue wave while traveling the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island. His nephew was the only one of the party of five not stranded and was able to hike 3 hours away to bring back ropes to get the young people out, but Neil and friend had to wait hours more for the US & Canadian Coast Guard helicopters to rescue them.

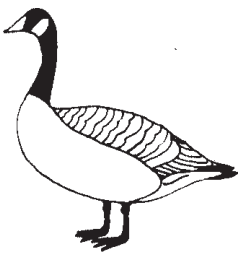
Log Foundation & 2466 WLN on TV: In April, the Public Affairs office of Port of Seattle asked Jann to show a French Journalist, Ana Szczepanska, and her cameraman the houseboat community for a Paris produced TV travel series “Bon Plans de Voyage”. Part of the show is about unusual, surprising, or unique city locales and they thought houseboats filled the bill. So, Jann & Sid rented an electric boat, took them out for a spin and talked about life on the Lake. They visited several houseboats. Thanks go to **Marty Greer** (2466 WLN), **Ellen Hansen, Carol Nielsen, and Blair Robbins** (all Log Foundation) for opening their houses and for being interviewed. Fred, the cameraman was so intent on filming everything that he knocked down a rack in Marty’s kitchen with his lens, which everyone thought was pretty funny. The Port of Seattle made a donation to the FHA for being hosts.

Log Foundation in the Movies: In July a film company arrived in Seattle to film a German TV movie called “A Letter to Bill Gates”. The plot takes a turn in the houseboat community and the location manager chose **Jim Smith’s** houseboat on 2017 for a film character’s “house”. The crew packed up everything in Jim’s house and replaced it with different furnishings and props. (The place never looked so good! Ha ha!) The shoot took about a week, which included a couple of night scenes shot on dock 2019.

Jann & Sid’s first road trip: Jann writes, “We left Seattle at the end of April and drove via back roads to Santa Fe where we stayed for eight days — taking side trips to Taos Pueblo and to Bandoleer National Park to climb among the cliff dwellings. I bargained for turquoise jewelry and we both OD’d on galleries & shops before the week was up. We loved all the restaurants we tried. The weather was totally bizarre, hot one day, thunder showers the next, and even snow one day with the next day nice enough to sit out by the pool! After leaving Santa Fe we went to El Paso to visit my cousin, Mary Jo and some old friends including one who owns a pawn shop and arms himself with a minimum of 3 guns. From there, we visited friends on a 365 acre ranch 35 miles from Silver City in the wilds of New Mexico ‘hill country’, saw more friends in Mesa, Arizona, ran into a couple of bluegrass musician friends we hadn’t seen in 10 years (from Oregon) in Quartzite, Arizona at a Mexican restaurant, and came home through California visiting my 92 year old Uncle Ralph in Delano, and a high school friend of Sid’s in Los Gatos. We figure the three week trip was a success because we didn’t kill each other over back seat driving or navigating and we survived the California free-ways.”

2420 Westlake: Erin Roche returns to University of Vermont in Burlington to finish her last year at graduate school. This time she is taking husband, **Mark Koenig**, and they will spend the winter fending off the cold. Since Mark is an FHA Board member, we have appointed him our Ambassador to the east coast.

2466 Westlake: Marty Greer sends news. **Marty & Gerry** saved up air miles and Gerry’s vacation time and took a month long vacation in Italy, France and Spain this spring. They flew into



...yet more Waterlog

Venice mid-April and home from Madrid mid-May. They did the tourist thing in Venice for three days and on the first day, Marty, the seasoned traveler, had her wallet pick-pocketed out of her purse, losing credit cards, ATM cards, and cash, but not her passport. They visited a friend in Parma who had lived with Marty's family as an exchange student during high school. "We spent one morning in a small Parmesan cheese factory (14 wheels per day) watching the whole process from fresh milk to wheels ready for aging." In Southern France they visited many old friends, including a British couple, whose children flew kites with Gerry's children many years ago in London, and who Gerry had not seen in 35 years. That left two weeks to see southern Spain, where neither had ever been. They drove straight to Valencia to see the fabulous new Calatrava-designed city cultural center plus America's Cup competition, then onto Baeza, Granada, the Jerez region (think sherry!), Cordoba, Seville, Toledo, Segovia and Madrid. Marty says they got quite good at navigating into a city, finding parking near the historic center, finding a pensione, and settling in. The only thing that was a bit difficult was trying to be a tourist and see all the sights, as well as keeping on the Spanish dining schedule. After getting up early to visit alcazars and art galleries and traveling all day on foot, they were ready to eat and go to bed by 8:00 pm. Not possible – restaurants never opened before 9:00 pm, and most nights they didn't eat until 10 or 11. They were quite amazed at traveling hundreds of miles and seeing nothing but olive trees – a landscape of bluish-green polka dots as far as the eye could see. They briefly followed the Don Quixote trail, popping into hilltop castles for picnics and photographing windmills. Marty says, "we spent 24 hours a day together for 30 days – and we're still friends; though Gerry had to keep reminding me that they don't make cars with two steering wheels and two brake pedals for a reason." Newest resident at 2466 is **Lucy Lakefish**, born on schedule May 5, to **Heather & Mark Lakefish**. Lucy is always stylishly dressed in outfits sporting all manner of fishes, duckies and other water-related images. She just wishes the building department would hurry up and give Mom and Dad their permit so she can have her own bedroom!

2766 Westlake: Emily Hine says, "through my work in philanthropy and volunteerism, I had the great fortune of being invited to New Delhi, India last November to speak at a World Conference on Volunteering for Peace in multi-cultural societies...I traveled in Northern India... saw the indescribable Taj Mahal, rode elephants in the pink city of Jaipur, got blessed by a Brahman priest in the holy city of Pushkar and took a jeep on a tiger safari in Ranthambore — no tigers — but two flat tires that left us stranded in the jungle made *not* seeing a tiger a very good thing! I was determined to pay a visit to the Dalai Lama...Arriving at McLeod Ganj in the snow-capped Himalayas after 12 frightening hours on India roads was like arriving in heaven... Within 15 hours, I was 'karmically' called to the Temple where His Holiness made an unannounced appearance to about 50 of us...On my final day in India, I participated in a Puja, an over two hour, ceremony for His Holiness. There I was, a light-skinned, light-haired NW girl in green REI jacket, hiking boots &

travel pants, sitting cross-legged among monks and nuns with dark skin, shaved heads and red robes. While I looked nothing like my companions, my heart and my head saw clearly what they saw. India has so much depth in the most physical and spiritual sense of the word. Once you experience that depth, you simply cannot return home as the same person."

Lee's Moorings: Sally Weems says Lee's Moorings has welcomed its third bachelor, **Jon Staenberg**, now residing at #1, where Ed and Alice Lee moored in the olden days. "We are in construction-site mode on Northlake Way, adding more parking above our previous lot. 'No parking' for quite some time."

Boat Street Dock: News on the University Dock comes from



Photo by Mark Lakefish

The stylishly dressed Lucy Lakefish.

Susan Susor. Tom & Susan have returned to houseboat living after a year spent working on their 100+ year old house in Index. More work needs to be done on it, but they welcome days on the water rather than with hammer in hand! **Terry & Shirley Tainter** in HB #2 are planning a major remodel. A few years ago, **Mike Dash** went to Naples to learn pizza making from the masters. Now he has reopened his wood-fire oven pizza business at the seasonal University Farmer's Market. Stop by and taste the wonders of vegan or vegetarian pizza.

Houseboat Harbor Inc: UW professor, **Donald Brownlee** was recently named Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in Astronomy. Brownlee's research has dealt with interplanetary dust, meteorites, comets, the origin of the solar system and astrobiology. An earlier issue of Waterlog reported Don as the leader of the highly successful Stardust mission, a NASA project that captured material from a comet and returned it to Earth. Don, with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a doctorate in astronomy, joined the UW faculty in 1980. **Marilyn Robertson** (2920 Fuhrman) reports that in early May, part of the road under the University Bridge collapsed due to a broken water main. This stranded a number of Portage Bay Place houseboat residents. They were grateful to the Seattle Public Utilities guys who came down with jugs of water. Residents were told the plan was to bypass the broken water line — water was restored in about

5 hours — and the city would build a temporary road through the Red Robin parking lot. **Myrna Cordova** (HHI) persuaded the road crew to let her use the unfinished detour. She was able to park on Furhman Avenue East for a few days. In those first hours of isolation, **Sheri Greaves** (HHI) wondered how she would throw her annual Opening Day of Yachting Season Party without ‘beverages’. It looked pretty bad at first, but once a water line was connected and the detour open, the residents’ spirits lifted. And, more importantly, Sheri and Steve’s opening day party went off without a hitch.



Photo by Andy Anderson

Opening Day Party on Portage Bay. Sheri and Steve Greaves.

A special thanks to Sally Weems, Giff Jones, Paulene Quigley, Robbie Rudine, Val Burgess, Marty Greer, Tiff McNamara, Susan Susor, Jann McFarland, Emily Hine, and Sheri Greaves for making this edition of Waterlog so readable. You, too, can contribute to this column. Just call Marilyn at 324.1257 or email isobel.rob@earthlink.net with dock news and photos.



Photo from Emily Hine

Emily Hine at the Amber Fort, Jaipur, India.

Marty Greer asked 12 year old Tia Monahan to write about the annual 4th of July parade that Tia, since quite small, has organized on the 2466 Westlake North dock.

Traditions

By Tia Monahan

People say a tradition is something repeated within a community or family. But I think a tradition is more than that. A tradition is more than just doing something; it is an activity that reoccurs because it creates enjoyable moments that will stay with us forever. It is something that symbolizes friendship and togetherness. Traditions can be anything you want and they can get passed down from generation to generation.

A tradition could be marching in a parade. Better yet, make it on 4th of July. A parade of children up and down the dock of multicolored houseboats march in a *not so straight* line chanting: “We are parading 4th of July!” over and over again until they get too tired to march another step. To a viewer, it might just seem like a time for kids to have fun, but on the inside, it is a time where family and friends get together to celebrate and be happy for this glorious day that stands for the beginning of a new journey. I think what is on the inside is what truly counts. Neighbors might say: “This must be so much fun for the kids, to be parading down our dock!” Frankly, they are



Photo by Tom Monahan

Traditional Kid’s 4th of July Parade

right. The kids *do* have fun and the adults love seeing the small, maybe crooked smiles on their faces. But though the kids might not know it, the 4th of July parade is not just for fun, it is for the sake of *tradition*.

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