



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 148

Newsletter

SPRING 2006

Living With **RIVER OTTERS**

By Diana Forman

Houseboaters around Lake Union and Portage Bay have long enjoyed the frolics of our river otters. This winter, John Pursell of Portage Bay, reported sighting, three otters, perhaps a mother and her two pups. "I've lived 50 years on the lake but seldom see otters. It was such a thrill to see this little family." Marilyn Robertson says she and Jim Weyand frequently hear the whistling sound that indicates the presence of river otters, but "we're usually too late to see them." Early this winter on a quiet morning, "I was standing on our deck when I heard bubbles accompanied by a heavy breathing sound. It was coming from between our deck and the dock. I stared at where the bubbles had risen and sure enough, up popped a sleek brown head. A pair of bright eyes stared at me for a moment. I guess the otter was startled as I, for it quickly turned and disappeared back into the lake."

As entertaining and as beautiful as these wild neighbors are, their habits are sometimes annoying. Because river otters eat 20% of their body weight each day, they produce large amounts of fishy smelling scat. Houseboaters irritated by the frequent appearance of "poop" and other river otter leavings on low lying floats can get a measure of relief by using Ropel All Natural, Outdoor Dog, Cat and Bird Repellent Granules, says Dr. Joe Gaydos. He is an expert on river otters who works for SeaDoc, a university-based marine science program specializing in the Pacific NW's inland

www.otternet.com



The Floating Homes Association's
44th Annual
**MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**
Wednesday, April 26th, 2006
7:00 To 9:00 PM
NAVAL RESERVE BUILDING
South Lake Union Park

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS
TAX APPEAL
BALLARD LOCKS
EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS
COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
Fun! Information! Refreshments!

waters and whose field office is on Orcas Island. Dr. Gaydos applied Ropel to three of six low-lying docks in his test, leaving three untreated. Over time he noted a distinct decrease in the amount of poop left by the visiting otters on the treated docks, but he also wants to be sure that no one expects Ropel to be a "cure all" for the problem. He notes that mothballs distributed around a float surface have worked for some individuals, though mothballs are most effective in an enclosed area and should not be used where household pets and young children could come in contact with them.

Ropel consists of natural ingredients such as cayenne, peppermint oil, and thyme in a granular form and can be purchased via the website of manufacturer Nixalite. A two-pound jug costs \$9.98, and cases of six such jugs, perfect for use by an entire dock, are \$59.88. The description on the Nixalite website is encouraging in that the product has been developed specifically to "stop nuisance animals from defecating, urinating and digging in gardens, lawn, flower pots and landscaping." Based on Joe Gaydos' success on

Continued on Page 2

From Page 1

River Otters

low-lying docks, Nixalite may wish to add “and floats.”

Ropel will at least dissuade river otters from making your float their playground; however, removal of the animals altogether can be both illegal and dangerous. For example, using poisonous substances “off label,” that is, for any purpose not specified by the manufacturer, is illegal. And the Seattle Municipal Code, Title 9, Chapter 9.25, forbids citizens to “injure, kill, or physically mistreat any animal.” Trapping is allowed only by state-licensed nuisance trappers who will remove and relocate troublesome otters, particularly in summer, or trap and kill them under water at other times of the year when the animals are less likely to remain in a new location. The pelts may be “harvested” by state-licensed trappers only when the animals are trapped live in season according to John Consolini, owner of Northwest Nuisance Wildlife Control, a licensed trapper operating in our area since 1985. He stresses legal trapping is a “last resort” in dealing with river otters. As the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife web site says, “Removing river otters by any means is a short-term solution since other otters are likely to move in if attractive habitat is still available.”

Sid McFarland of Log Foundation offers specific suggestions for coping with those river otters that frolic beneath your home. “Deterring otters from living under your houseboat is a challenge. Cement floats are easier to critter-proof than houses on log floats. Both have their advantages and disadvantages. Cement floats usually have no voids underneath where entry can be accomplished by gaining access up through the float. Log floats often have missing logs that leave a void and also there can be space between logs and layers of logs, where the critters can come and go.

“Netting, or better yet, ½” to 1” mesh metal screening can be secured in any voids that lead to entry under the house. Cement floats can usually be sealed between the bearing beams and the underside of the house, but it is hard to attach the screen to the cement. Best way is to drill fasteners into the cement. Please be aware otters can pull up or apart any unfastened portions of the net or screen. Log floats lend the ability to attach all sides of the screen or net to a

wood surface. But, the log float has many more gaps and uneven surfaces to apply the screen or net barrier, as well as unseen gaps under water. A diver should be hired to apply and fasten the screening or netting under water as well as account for and cover the unseen gaps for a log float.”

Planning to adapt an existing float and prefer to avoid river otter visits? Make sure the float is high off the water.

As some houseboaters have done, break out a hose and get used to scouring decks and float surface often. Then take time to enjoy watching the graceful and endlessly fascinating otters who think your float is just swell.

Extensive, helpful information about living with river otters may be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/river_otters.htm on the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife website. It’s part of the “Living with Wildlife” series and provides especially useful advice in its sections entitled “Preventing Conflicts and “River Otters in

or Under Buildings.”

Ropel All Natural, Outdoor Dog, Cat, and Bird Repellent Granules can be ordered at <http://www.nixalite.com/ropeloutdoor.aspx>

Sid McFarland and Marilyn Robertson contributed to this article.

Diana Forman lives on Shelby Dock and is a member of the Environmental Committee.

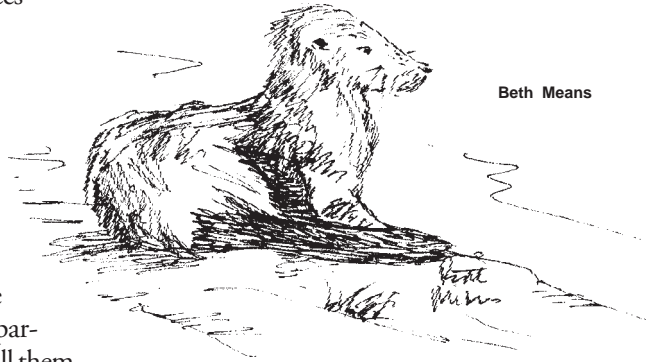


Photo by Marilyn Robertson



River Otter front yard.

The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E
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Now and Then

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Jann, Bill**

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Spring 2006



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Association Standing Committee Reports



Legislative & Legal Sheri Greaves, Chair

Best as I can tell, we made it through the legislative session unscathed...nothing even came close to affecting us. But now that the session is over, we are moving forward on the property tax issue. A meeting has been scheduled by our lobbyist, Mike Ryherd, with the manager of the Commercial/Business Division in the King County Assessor's Office in early April. We plan to discuss the methods of valuation and assessments of the different arrangements (condos, co-ops, rentals) for spaces used for moorage of floating homes. We will have some information to present to everyone at the Annual Meeting which may be helpful in the appeals process.

Please let me know if you have any specific questions or situations that might help in our discussions (sgreaves@fhcrc.org).

Also please feel free to e-mail me with any issues that need our attention.
Thanks! See you at the Annual Meeting.

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Fundraising Melissa Ahlers, Chair

The 2006 Houseboat Tour planning is in full swing and thanks to our phenomenal committee, this tour is on its way to being one of our best! Thanks to Laurel and Pat Doody, the advertising firm WongDoody has graciously agreed to work on our marketing materials and we are fortunate to have some great media opportunities already lined up. We are currently rounding up past tour favorite accompaniments — from Otis Pimpleton's BBQ to the Electric Boat Company's great little boats... it's going to be a hoot! The tour will take place on Sunday, September 10th, 2006 from 12 pm to 5 pm. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Melissa Ahlers at Melissa@lakere.com or 206.356.2262.

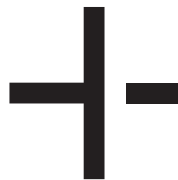
Membership & Communications Marilyn Robertson, Chair

The FHA Board Communication Committee has several changes to report.

Last fall, Emily Hine resigned as Committee chair to work on FHA logo and the FHA web site. She will continue with her responsibilities for managing the Annual meeting.

Marilyn Robertson has assumed the chair for this committee. Her prime responsibility is coordination of the FHA newsletter with Jann McFarland (advertising, feature writer and editor). Marilyn and Jann work closely with Bill Keasler, FHA president and editor in chief of the newsletter. Bill's responsibility is layout and printing of the newsletter. Jann remains responsible for membership.

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Security & Safety

**Giff Jones
Tiffany McNamara
Co-Chairs**

Patrick W. Martin is an individual who has repeatedly burglarized the houseboat community since late winter in 2003. His general methods involved casing our docks during the day and returning in the very early hours of the morning to break into our homes through unlocked doors, cutting through locked screen doors or through open windows. He was frequently so quiet that he did not disturb sleeping houseboaters as he plundered the house looking for cash primarily. If detected Patrick clearly knew our docks and where to hide well because he simply "vanished." Thankfully he is currently residing at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla. The earliest release date he is eligible for is June 27, 2006 but could be delayed as long as February 5, 2007. Due to Patrick Martin's history with our community it is in our best interest to follow his progress. It may be possible to do a community review

with Patrick Martin in person once he is released. I will be investigating that option as June approaches and inform everyone on the details.

This March marks the third anniversary of the launch of the Dock Watch email newsletter. For those of you who have not heard of the Dock Watch it is an email based method of communicating safety and security related information. I encourage you to sign up and try it out. Just go to www.seattlefloatinghomes.org and look under "Lake and Bay." Click on "Dockwatch" and on the left hand side of the page you will find "Sign Up for Dockwatch." Fill out the form and I will get you signed up. The complete archives of the Dockwatch are also available at this web site

Many thanks to Teagen Densmore for frequently attending the EPCPC (East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition) meetings to represent the Floating Homes Association. —
Tiff McNamara



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Association Standing Committee Reports

Fremont Bridge Construction

By Art Brochet

Phase One of the Fremont Bridge Approach Replacement Project has stayed on schedule, in spite of some near record stretches of rain. Work on the new footings, columns and piers underneath the existing approaches will be complete by the end of May - bringing to a close the work that can be accomplished prior to demolishing and replacing the roadway itself.

Major improvements to key roadways and intersections in and around Fremont and along Bridge Way underneath Aurora Avenue will also be drawing to a close soon. These enhancements to safety and mobility for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists should be finished just in time for Phase Two of the project.

From June 2006 to March 2007 the existing roadway surfaces at either end of the Fremont Bridge will be removed and replaced, two lanes at a time. During this period traffic across the bridge will be maintained, via a single shared pedestrian/bicycle pathway and two vehicular lanes, one in each direction. The driving lanes will be slightly narrower, requiring that all trucks and buses will be routed across either the Aurora or Ballard bridges during

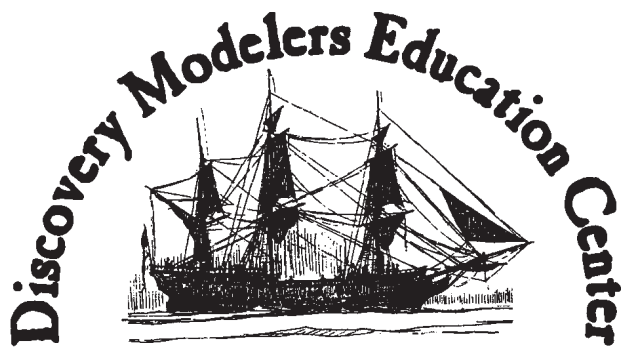
phase two. There will also be a few full closures of the bridge to all traffic (for safety reasons) during this phase of construction, occurring either on weekends or on successive weekday nights.

Bridge approach traffic is scheduled to return to its current configuration in April of 2007, although work on electrical and mechanical systems will continue for several months afterwards during Phase Three.

An **open house** will be held Wednesday April 26th from 5-7 PM at Adobe's conference center (701 North 34th Street) to present more information about the project, and a kick-off event will held in Fremont on Mother's Day, May 14th.

For background on the project, including drawings, photographs and an email list sign-up form, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/fremontbridgeapproaches.htm>. You can even sign up to receive mp3 audio files updating you on the latest construction news.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project please call SDOT Project Manager Lorelei Mesic at 206-684-5178. Also, businesses may contact SDOT's Business-Liaison Consultant, Art Brochet, at 206-547-1008.



Welcome Aboard

Ship Model Classes • Adults/Kids • Sign On

April 8: Not-Just-Maritime-Treasures Sale
9am-4pm Buy • Sell • Consign • Donate

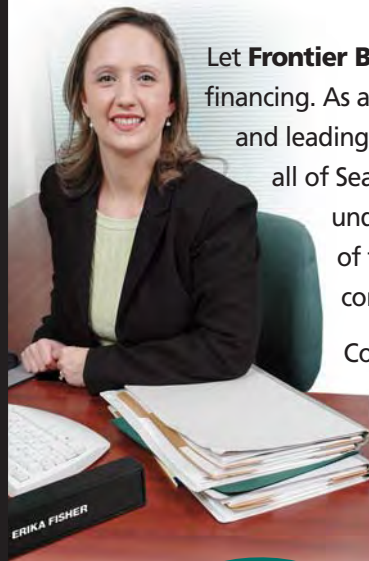
April 15: Lt. Peter Puget's Adventures aboard Vancouver's ship *Discovery* (14' model). 10-11am

April 15: Build the *LaGoleta* schooner kit. First of four workshop sessions. 12:30-4:30 pm.

South Lake Union Armory (860 Terry Ave. N.)

Reserve/Info: Colleen Wagner, 206-282-0985,
or email discoverymodelers@yahoo.com

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Association Standing Committee Reports



Environmental

Jan Carlson, Chair

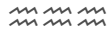
The Environmental Committee continues to focus on encouraging houseboaters to maintain the clean waters of Lake Union and Portage Bay through involvement with both the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and the annual Lake Union Sweep.

In November 2005, Floating Home Association members participated in a Puget Soundkeeper Training session. Sandy Simmons, Pat and Dean Sampson, Sheryl Landon, Diana and Bob Forman, Jan Carlson and Sally and Charlie Weems joined PSA leaders, Sue Joerger and Chris Wilke for a day in the classroom and on the Lake Union Ship Canal. The goals of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, 'To protect and preserve Puget Sound by stopping the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the Sound' were explained by Chris, who said the protection extends to all rivers, lakes and streams that flow into Puget Sound.

In the classroom session, participants learned about threats to Puget Sound water quality, the common sources of pollution and how to report pollution. On the Ship Canal the group was shown what Puget Soundkeepers look for when patrolling the Ship Canal and Lake Union. On that Saturday, Chris and Sue were pleased to report the industries along the Ship Canal were operating in an environmentally safe way. Workers sanding boat hulls were using tarps to prevent dust from falling into the water. The group saw an example of a potential pollution event at one marina. A moored boat was sinking and the water was nearly up to outboard engine gas tank. Chris and Sue reported it to the marina.

The environmental committee suggests houseboaters par-

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ticipate in a Puget Soundkeepers program to learn 'exactly what to look for and where to look' for signs of pollution. As part of this program, the environmental committee is in the process of creating an 'Eco Watch' within the Floating Homes Community. For example, well-informed volunteers could provide a first line of defense against an oil spill. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a steward of Lake Union and Portage Bay call Puget Soundkeeper Alliance at 206.297.7002 or email pugetsoundkeeper.org and check calendar for upcoming volunteer trainings.

The annual clean up of trash on the lake and Portage Bay, The Lake Union Sweep is on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The following weekend, Saturday May 20th is the clean up of the Ship Canal.



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a Community Cleanup Event

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 Adobe Brown Bear Car Wash Agua Verde Paddle Club and Café Northwest Outdoor Center
 The Electric Boat Co Floating Homes Association Friends of the Trail Fremont Avenue Ferry
 Starbucks Coffee Tacoma Dragon Boat Association



Event Date/Time:

May 13, 2006

8:15 am- 8:45 am Volunteer Check-in
 9:00 am- 12:00 am: On-Water Cleanup Event
 12:00 pm- 2:00 pm: Celebration

Place:

South Lake Union Park:

860 Terry Ave N,
 Seattle, 98109
 (near the old armory building just off Valley St.)

Event Description:

The event will involve volunteers in kayaks and other small boats picking up trash and transferring the material to larger craft for offloading and pickup by Seattle Public Utilities. Additional cleanup will be done in shore-side areas around the lakes to involve non-boaters.

Event Contact:

If you or your group is interested in participating in or sponsoring this event, please contact: Chris Wilke at Puget Soundkeeper Alliance: 206-297-7002 or volunteer@pugetsoundkeeper.org

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Bob West

Blues Musician and Music Preservationist

By Jann McFarland

Bob West has lived on the Wandesforde dock on Fairview for over 36 years. His houseboat has always overflowed with music, musicians, and music lovers. Neighbors living on the dock have always been welcome to join the jam sessions. Sometimes people bring food and drink and the jam goes on all night. Bob plays the piano, drums, trumpet, trombone, and steel resonator guitar.

Bob's musical interest is traditional jazz and blues. "My dad collected records and I listened to boogie-woogie music before I was born. I really started listening to the music in depth when I was about 11 years old and started collecting records when I was 12. I liked the country blues and the early New Orleans bands, and the rough Creole bands."

After graduating from high school in 1960, Bob was learning to play the trumpet, and would go down to Pioneer Square to one of the clubs and listen to a Dixieland band. "I was underage, but knew the doorman, and I'd go upstairs in an attic storage room above the band and play along with them... where no one could hear me, I hope. I knew not to play the last note!"

Soon after, "I heard about a band playing at the West Side Inn... The Great Excelsior Jazz Band, with Ray Skjellbred, Mike Duffy, and others. They were playing like Kid Ory, and Kid Thomas. The kids in the audience were dancing the Twist to this old jazz." Later the band members came up to the next booth, and Bob heard them mention Bob Graf who was a record collector his father knew, so Bob introduced himself. "It all fell together right there. Ray invited me down to the sessions at his houseboat, the one I'm living in now, which I bought from him in 1972. Bob Graf became a friend and mentor.... Later I played trombone with the Great Excelsior Jazz Band... Then I started getting into the guitar and piano, playing the blues."

In 1967 Ray & Mike hosted a show on KRAB FM radio,

Floating Homes Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30-9:00pm	Annual Meeting	Naval Reserve
Weekly	Fairview E. path planting & cleanup.	See p. 14 Volunteers needed.
Saturday, 6 May	Opening Day of Yachting Season	Portage Bay and Lake Washington
Saturday, 13 May, 9:00-noon	Lake Union Sweep	Lake Union and Portage Bay See p. 9 Volunteers needed.
Saturday, 20 May 9:00am- noon	Lake Union Sweep	Ship Canal See p. 9 Volunteers needed.
Saturday, 20 May	Walk for Peace www.walkforpeaceandhealing.com	Green Lake

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an important voice in Seattle music at that time. They asked Bob to bring in some of his records. Later the station asked Bob to host a show which was called 'King Biscuit Time'. He played music, promoted Seattle Folklore Society concerts, and interviewed the musicians. "The first radio interview was with Booker ('Bukka') White, in 1967. He told how he happened to be recorded, what the music was like on the Mississippi plantations, and how the blues originated. I learned then that... others were alive and playing music in Memphis, where Booker lived then....I went there the following year, in '68, to visit and record Booker and his friend Furry Lewis. This was the start of my recording blues artists... I was working at Boeing in aircraft quality control, I'm just a working stiff. I needed a month off to go...I had a good boss and he let me stack 2 vacations together...so I could go South and record..."

After Bob got back to Seattle, He, Bob Graf and Mike Duffy listened to the Memphis tapes and decided to issue records from them. Graf was the businessman and got the records made. "I knew nothing about that kind of stuff, didn't care to learn about it." Other recording sessions followed in St. Louis, New Orleans and elsewhere. In the 1990s Bob started Arcola Records. He knew he had some good material. Clare Conrad, another KRAB radio show host and fellow musician did the graphic design and helped set up the business. "We just started putting one CD out about every year. There was really no grand plan....The money that goes into this is from my salary. And I'm glad, because if I got funding from someone else...I'd have to do it their way..."

The Seattle Folklore Society brought a lot of great blues musicians to Seattle. The musicians would come down to Bob's houseboat to relax before and after the shows and wouldn't be bothered by anyone. "We really didn't have jam sessions, the musicians would come and play, we'd all take turns. I do remember playing in a jam situation with Johnny Shines....he took my banjo-mandolin and played the most haunting, beautiful Delta bottleneck blues,

and sang some wonderful pieces." Many others stayed at the houseboat including folk singer, Pete Seeger, who came to Seattle in the late 1970s to play a benefit for Floating Homes. Bob's houseboat is a place filled with music, instruments & collections of records that would make any musician feel at home.

Bob hopes that the Bush education act 'Leave No Child Behind' will some day include room for more freedom of individuality. "So people can see that a more creative lifestyle can produce valuable musicians and artists. If my material can encourage kids to develop on their own, I think that would be great. This 'Leave No Child Behind'...I don't think we should leave them behind as musicians, either."

There are more Arcola projects planned for the future. Arcola CDs are only available on the web site. For CD information and links, please check out www.Arcolarecords.com

Thanks to Clare Conrad for access to her transcribed notes from a recorded interview with Bob.

Photo by Jann McFarland



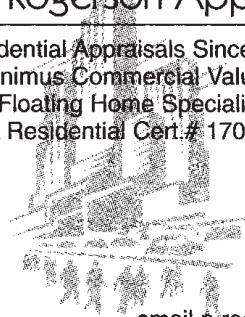
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**Lilly
 Pad**

By Bob Lilly

This year's fundraising plant sales will be excellent places to find just the right plant for your deck containers. We have had a reasonably mild winter and the growers will have a good selection of annuals, perennials, herbs, trees and shrubs. Look for grasses at the later sales as grasses take longer to wake up, needing both increased heat and warm temperatures.

Try to resist planting annuals until the first of May. Cold, wet soil will set them back a bit so start looking for larger plants between 1st of May and Mothers Day. A lot of us have windy decks and a late April windstorm can shred all that fresh soft growth on geraniums, marigolds, fuchsias and impatiens.

Don't hesitate to grow a few annuals from seed to fill out your established pots. Nasturtiums can be planted anytime after May 15th,

sweet peas are best after February 22nd, and we can even grow poppies, larkspurs and lobelia with a late spring sowing.

For the 'edible garden', which includes a few tomatoes and such, wait for the gallon can size plants for a jump start. Head over to the Good Shepherd Center on May 6th and 7th 9-3pm for almost every other vegetable you can imagine as well as tomatoes. It is quite easy to grow a few squash or even the miniature melons, but you will need a big pot and rich soil. Do not let peas, squash, cucumbers or melons dry out as this will trigger the onset of mildew.

When shopping for plants for containers, look for plants with a good, balanced form, healthy leaves with no yellowed lower ones, and watch out for pot bound plants with roots out the bottom. These plants might just be a bit too old and may have suffered too many chances to dry out. Plants should not be wobbly in the pot, indicating the plant is not well rooted. If the plant is in flower it should have some buds as well as open flowers. Look for geraniums in four to six inch pots that are well branched and a good, healthy, rich green with few or no yellow leaves at the base. You can now buy bulbs in flower for a quick show but these will usually not flower the following year and are best used as a temporary display like primroses and cyclamen.

This issue of the Newsletter should be out in time to allow you to catch the best of the plants sales where you can meet the grower and talk to them about what will do best in a pot on a houseboat deck. A wide selection of plants will help you find just the right plant for your location. Remember to mention if you have a wind problem.



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Northwest Perennial Alliance Spring Plant Sale, Sunday April 23rd, 11-3pm. This sale has a strong focus on perennials and plants from the Perennial Borders at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Location of sale: Sandpoint Warren G. Magnuson Park, Building 27. There are about 20 vendors and lots of good advice. (Note: The Public Library Book Sale is the same weekend in Building 30.)

FlorAbundance This is the Arboretum Foundation's Fund Raiser. It is also in the Sandpoint Warren G. Magnuson Park building 27, but on Saturday, April 29th 10-5pm and Sunday, April 30th 10-3pm. You will find more than 50 vendors, lots of shrubs and grasses as well as perennials, herbs and vegetables. There are good annuals at the sale from geraniums to all those basket stuffers. Look for dahlias for bold summer color and remember to look for a vendor with lilies already rooted out in 4 inch pots — a quick way to get fragrance in summer.

Bellevue Botanical Garden Society Plant Sale. On site at the garden on Saturday, May 6th 10-4pm. This is a good chance to see the garden and the Perennial Borders in spring glory. This sale has a wide variety of Fuchsias (from the Seattle Fuchsia Society).

Seattle Tilth Edible Plant Sale. The home of every tomato variety you ever heard of and lots more vegetables. There will be organic growers at the Good Shepherd Center/Meridian Park in the Wallingford neighborhood. This is a very fun and festive show. Don't miss the demonstration gardens. May 6th 9-3pm and May 7th 9-3pm.

King County Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Center for Urban Horticulture on May 6th 9-4pm and May 7th 10-3pm. Lots of vendors and little red wagons! This is often the best sale for shrubs.

All of these sales primarily sell plants in 4 inch and gallon pots. If you are looking for a shrub or small tree in a larger pot your local nursery is the better choice because larger, heavier plants are less available at most plant sales due to limited space, so less selection and less access for loading and unloading large plants. Remember, you will need to pick up soil at nurseries. I still recommend Black Gold potting soil for houseboats because it has a good texture and is light weight.

Look for mention of the fall sales and the fall bulb and plant sale at the Arboretum in a future article.

Bob Lilly, a plantsman is associated with the Arboretum and the Bellevue Botanical Garden. He lives on Texas Chuck.



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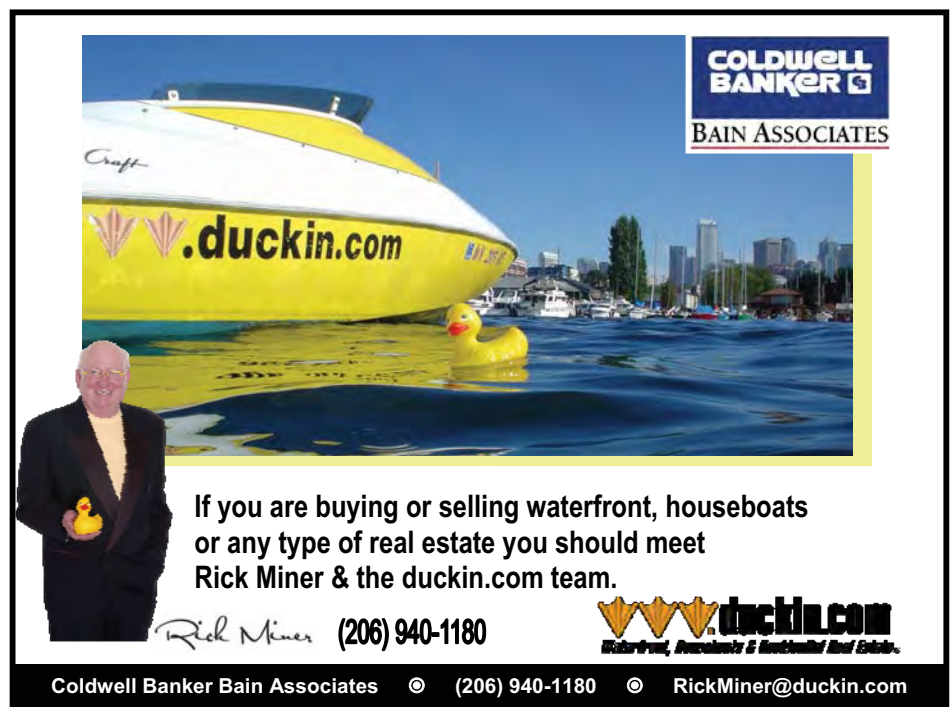
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Eastlake Community Council News

By Chris Leman

April 18 meeting about summer festival. Planning is underway for another Eastlake Shake summer festival. On Tuesday, April 18, the Eastlake Community Council and the Eastlake Community will hold a kick-off meeting (7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.) to brainstorm how to make the festival most successful, and present opportunities for volunteer involvement and business sponsorships. If you can't make it April 18, please send your suggestions or offer of help at ECC, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle 98102 or cleman@oo.net.

May 9 meeting features Larry Phillips. On Tuesday, May 9, 7-9 p.m. at the TOPS-Seward School library the Eastlake neighborhood welcomes our new

King County Councilmember Larry Phillips. Also: updates on a possible streetcar line on Eastlake Avenue, how to implement the Seattle Transit Plan's priority for some Eastlake stops by all express buses that use Eastlake Avenue, and what the City is doing about the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan's call to restore peak-hour parking to Eastlake Avenue. Volunteers are needed.

Land use projects. In recent months the Eastlake neighborhood has had more sales of large land parcels, and more current or impending project proposals, than probably at any time in our history. ECC's land use committee needs your help in making sure these projects are good for the neighborhood. To get involved, contact ECC board member Matthew Stubbs, matthew_stubbs@comcast.net or (917) 449-7739.

The 1520 Eastlake project just beginning City review is three 85-foot mixed use buildings with 199 housing units—the most ever proposed in Eastlake. Its dramatic location would replace low-rise buildings that are just south of the Eastlake Veterinary Center. Concerns include the fenced-off open space, the circle-the-wagons format of "townhouse" entrances, and the blank wall facing Franklin Ave. There is an important design review meeting on this project at 8 p.m. on Wed., April 5 at Seattle Central Community College room 3211. ECC is trying to convince the City to hold these meetings in the neighborhood, and has requested a general public meeting on the project here at Seward School. Project number is 3003961; to be added to the mailing list, contact City planner Lisa Rutzick at 386-9049 or

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Wards Cove (88 E. Hamlin St.) owns land on both sides of Fairview, and to protect the views on its 21 proposed upland townhouses, would keep the low profile of its current shoreside office building and tear down a warehouse. Other welcome features of the project include twelve new houseboat slots, and a "green street" design giving Fairview more the feeling of a country road. Public concerns have focused on blockage of park and homeowners' views by the moorage of large (up to 100 foot) boats on leased, submerged DNR land; and the lack of public view access at the south end of the project. In addition to the usual debate within the neighborhood, Filipinos Against Injustice and for Redress (FAIR, c/o firigon@prodigy.net), feels that the company's Alaska cannery operations were discriminatory and opposes the permit until Wards Cove reaches out to the Filipino community. Project number for the shoreside construction is 3003444, and details can be viewed on the City web site at <http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/Notice.aspx?id=943>.

Lake Union southeast shoreline project. For the neighborhood planning efforts of the 1990s, Jim Donnette did a conceptual design for a Fairview Ave. E. walking path south from Newton to Fairview Ave. N. Seattle Public Utilities built the first part, in front of NOAA, in 1997 as part of a sewer expansion project. After years of liaison with property owners and public agencies, ECC built the second phase, between NOAA and Lake Union Dry Dock (1500 and 1600 blocks of Fairview) under a \$20,000 contract with the City. The result: pathway with a view where one once had to walk in the street and saw only a wall of blackberries and brush; and the parking is safer, better-drained, and more usable.

A shoreline condition of the City permit is to install native plants in place of the invasive blackberries, ivy, clematis, scotch broom, and Japanese knotweed on the shore. Houseboaters have been prominent among the more than 70 volunteers who have helped fight the weeds and removed hundreds of bottles and cans and other assorted trash. Thanks also to the following businesses for hot drinks and snacks: Cuppa Joe On the Go, Starbucks, Grand Central Bakery, Louisa's, Le Fournil, Eastlake Market, and Chaco Canyon. The work parties continue from 10 to 3 on the Saturdays April 1, 15, and 29; and Sundays April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; phone or check the web site for work parties in May and June.

Other work parties. On Saturday, April 22 there will be Earth Day work parties at Louisa Street-end (10 to 4); Fairview Park (2900 Fairview, 9:30 to 2, 328-2161), and Good Turn Park (3149 Fairview, 10 to noon,). There will also be a Louisa Street-end work party (769-8278) on Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. to 4. Additional Good Turn Park work parties are Wed., May 17 and June 14, both 6-8

p.m. (Thanks to houseboater Tricia Rendina, 261-4271, who is the acting coordinator for Good Turn Park.) Parks that need a coordinator include Rogers Playfield and Colonnade Park, the Lake Union southeast shoreline project, and North Gateway Park (under I-5 where Harvard and Eastlake intersect).

Dock memberships. ECC deeply appreciates that the Log Foundation and Tenas Chuck have purchased individual ECC memberships for all of their dock residents. We would welcome any other docks who would like to join this program.

For questions or suggestions about any of the above, contact ECC Secretary Chris Leman, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, cleman@oo.net, or phone 322-5463.

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BettyAnn Morse

April 6, 1935 to December 22, 2005



70th Birthday Party

Bam was a houseboater for over 40 years. Like many who have lived on Lake Union and Portage Bay in the earlier years, she moved several times before ending up at a moorage on Lake Union off Fairview and East Hamlin and across the channel from Roanoke Reef. She was born on the other side of the country, in Montpelier, Vermont on April 6, 1935 and grew up in Woods Hole on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. She graduated with a degree in Physics from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Growing up near the water and working summers at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, she wanted to go to sea. In 1956, this passion brought her to Seattle to the Oceanography department at the University of Washington where she spent 25 years as a research oceanographer.

Bam was one of the first two women to go to sea on the U of W's R/V Brown Bear where she participated in the International Geophysical Year Cruise in 1957. She also went on two trips to the Chukchi Sea in the Arctic, east of the Russian coast and north of Alaska's Seward Peninsula near the Bering Straits. There were many shorter trips in Puget Sound and the Columbia River. Over the years she was involved with research projects in Taiwan, Hawaii and the Arctic for various agencies. She was the first woman to do research on the polar ice.

Bam had a huge circle of friends, many of whom were former students as well as her many houseboat community neighbors. She helped with Floating Homes Association fund raisers, cheerfully volunteering for whatever task was asked of her. After a severe stroke some years ago, she was left with one side paralyzed and mostly confined to a wheelchair. Her network of friends rallied so she could remain on her houseboat. The houseboat doorways were widened and her bathroom remodeled. Neighbor, April Boyd did her grocery shopping, another took her to her Physical Therapy sessions, while others came and cleaned for her. Bam was proud of the fact she could do her own cooking. And very important to her were the people who took her walking. It was her goal

to walk unassisted again. Neighbors such as Mike Dederer would take her to Floating Homes meetings and events where others would gather around to converse with her. She remained upbeat and hopeful in spite of the challenges she was given.

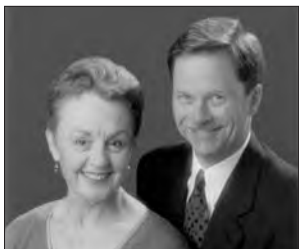
Neighbors Jack & Joan Leversee, who live across the channel on Roanoke Reef, shared a couple of stories: "One of our favorite recollections of Bam was of her in the water, more floating about than swimming, sort of vertical, under a large Chinese hat, bobbing around calling on neighbors." For a time a family of raccoons lived on the logs under her houseboat. "They would swim over to Roanoke Reef, climb up a swim ladder and walk over to the restaurant next door to help in cleaning up the garbage dumpster. Then reverse the route back to Bam's, carefully climbing down the ladder to make the swim back..."

For many years Bam held a holiday season party on her houseboat and guests would bring their favorite food and drink, visit, and watch the lighted Christmas ships parade in Lake Union. This past December there was no party. On December 22, 2005 Bam passed away. On March 4, 2006 her sister, Trish held a gathering, like the old times, to remember Bam. A huge group of friends and neighbors came, many from far away, to celebrate her life. Stories were told, memories shared, photos shown, and much food & wine was consumed. The weather was sunny and the houseboat overflowed with people visiting on the decks and on the dock. Excited children ran after the water fowl after baiting them with as much bread & crackers they could liberate from the dining table. Bam would have loved it.

Thanks to Bam's sister, Trish Morse for helping with this piece and providing wonderful photos. — Jann McFarland



Arctic Attire: Early 1960s



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The Houseboatique

By Marilyn Robertson

Have you shopped at the FHA Houseboatique? Mary and Giff Jones, Board members from Mallard Cove, the current managers of the Houseboatique, have done a bang up job of promoting unusual, fun items with a houseboat theme. The idea for a 'cottage industry' in the houseboat community began in 1982 when houseboater, Bob McPeak designed a T-shirt with a line of brightly painted houseboats across the front and underneath "Houseboats. Bringing a little color to Seattle." In 1985 the first houseboat cookbook by Beth Means & Jann McFarland was added and note cards designed by Rick Becker. Over the years came sweatshirts, mugs, and other items.

In late 2000, Mary and Giff took over and renamed the FHA shop, 'Houseboatique'. Since taking it on, they have kept Marty Alexander Greer and Ann Bassetti's cookbook, FLOATING KITCHENS: Cooking with Seattle's Houseboaters as a centerpiece of sales, while adding products that might appeal to their target market, houseboaters.

This year one of the new items was wine labels. Giff explained the genesis of this 'hot' product. "Mary, neighbor Melissa Ahlers, and I were thinking up new products. Why shouldn't we get a winery to create a special red and white for us and call it HOUSEBOAT RED and HOUSEBOAT WHITE? We followed up on this idea, but found a potential for many headaches, including legal issues and the problem of storing cases of wine in the tiny sales space. Then, out of the blue it came to me. It wasn't the wine, but the label that interested me! So we created the label from the 40th Anniversary T-shirt artwork." All a houseboater has to do is buy a bottle of wine and stick on the appropriate label.

The couple's latest ideas include phasing out clothing items in various sizes and finding new products that have universal appeal to houseboaters.

Every December, the FHA office is converted into a tiny holiday shop with decorations and multi-colored lights. At last years holiday sale, displays of various styles and sizes of T shirts and sweat shirts crowded the tables and shelves. Tote bags hung above coffee mugs that nudged cookbooks and note cards. Every item jostled for shelf space. There was, as always, a good variety for shoppers to choose from. New items include lap blankets and tote bags with a wine bottle pocket – both decorated with a colorful houseboat and slogan, A NEIGHBORHOOD, AN ATTITUDE, A WAY OF LIFE.

Shopping opportunities aren't limited to the December Holiday Sale. Houseboatique will be open for business at the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, 26 April. There also will be a Houseboatique at the Houseboat Tour, Sunday 10 September. And you can always call Jann McFarland at 206-323-3489 or leave a message at the office, 206-325-1132, to set up an appointment to come in and shop anytime. For a look at some of the items, you can go on line to www.seattlefloatinghomes.org, then click on 'catalog'.

It is not easy to change a 'cottage industry' into a lively shop selling goods with pizzazz. It takes a lot of energy, enthusiasm and 'know how'. Thank you Mary and Giff Jones for the work you do to keep the Houseboatique afloat!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

A word about VOLUNTEERISM: The chair of a vital neighborhood committee recently received a note from a constituent complaining about the job some volunteers had been doing on a local project. The complainer ranted on but as you might imagine, was not there to help with the work. I guess I see it as being a little like voting. If you don't cast a ballot you don't get to complain about the results! Thanks for providing this new venue for airing our thoughts.

Giff Jones

New Roof for FHA Office

In early October Floating Homes Association President, Bill Keasler donned another hat in his repertoire of talents and helped Sid McFarland put a new roof on the Floating Homes office. Thanks also to long time Tenas Chucker, Dale Patterson for getting the willow tree over head pruned enough for the roofers to work. Dale also did the post roofing clean up and replaced some rotted deck boards. The new blue roof is a metal one and so will last a long time. Thanks volunteers, from all of us!

Now, we could use some help this summer to paint the outside of the office. If you are interested in rolling up your sleeves and wielding a paint brush, please give Jann McFarland a call at 323-3489. — **Jann McFarland**

Lake Union & Portage Bay History Project Update

By Holly Taylor

Thanks to the many Floating Homes Association members who read the introductory article for the Lake Union and Portage Bay History Project in the Fall FHA newsletter, and responded with suggestions of community members to interview and offers of access to home history archives! Work is getting started on the project (a bit more slowly than anticipated...) to document Lake Union's industrial, social and environmental history through oral history interviews and research. The non-profit Jack Straw Productions will be providing technical support for the project through interview recording and web hosting, and we hope to get started with interviews in the near future. If you know someone who should be interviewed, or if you are interested in getting involved with the project, contact project director Holly Taylor at holly@pastforwardnw.com or 206.463.3168 with suggestions, questions, or contributions.

Corrections to Fall 2005 Newsletter

Photos on page 12 and 13 accompanying Lily Pad were taken by Marilyn Robertson, not Bob Lilly.

In the Ballard Locks article, email address for Lynne Melder, listed on page 17 should read Lynne.K.Melder@nws02.usace.army.mil

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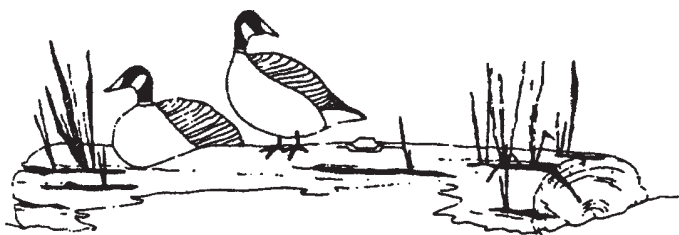
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Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson



Spring 2006

Even though we live in a picturesque spot, houseboaters like to get away. Doctor Jim and I spent last autumn on a road trip across the States. It was our fourth cross-country trip. You'd think we would know better. But it was decided, despite the cost of gas, to visit States we hadn't yet seen. Late September is a great time to drive through the mid-western states, so Jim, who does all the driving, chooses a stress free approach: country roads to put us in touch with ordinary people and places.

You've probably heard of Wabash, Indiana, but what about Broken Bow, Nebraska? Both great overnight stops where we met interesting 'country folk'.

We spent a stormy month in Maine, where the remnants of Hurricane Rita took a toll on our peaceful walks on the beach. It was the first of November when we set out for home. To avoid snow storms, we chose a more southerly route through Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. In Tennessee we jumped onto the Natchez Trace Parkway for a two-day journey through the past. If you have the opportunity to take a leisurely drive across country, I'd recommend back country roads.

I've just returned from a three-week trip to Mexico. At the start, Jim and I made a slight detour to visit friends in Jamaica Beach on Galveston Island. Not a houseboat community but pretty close. Houses on stilts

sitting on canal edges. Like the floating homes community, there is a mix of part time and year round residents. The community is made up of the middle aged and retirees, but there is a good mix of younger, working couples. We saw the school bus dropping off a few children, too. There are large, modern homes as well as places built as vacation homes in 1956. Life in Jamaica Beach centers on the water: sailing, swimming, enjoying sunsets and of course, bird watching. Most gardening is done in pots, just as in houseboats. Neighbours look out for one another and watch over vacant homes. Sounds just like Seattle, until hurricane season!



Photo by J. Weyand

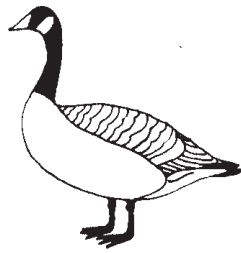
Homes on stilts — Jamaica Beach, Galveston

After such a wet winter it's fun to focus on travel. Mexico seems to be the destination of choice for many houseboaters.

Jeri Callahan (Tenas Chuck) spent most of the winter in Puerto Vallarta and she emailed from a small, local travel office. She volunteers each Sunday to allow the regular staff member to take a day off. In return Jeri gets to use the computer! She sees houseboaters **Ray Woodring** and **Charlotte**

Macmillan (Log Foundation) who are in PV for 6 months. Jeri has also been busy with a PV writers conference, where she has sold some of her books. It's a small world: at a party, Jeri met a fellow who talked about friends who once lived on a Portage Bay houseboat. After his return to the States, he sent her an email of their houseboat memories. **Jann McFarland** reports Log Foundation (2025 FV) was well represented in Mazatlan this winter. Jann & Sid stayed 9 weeks mingling with friends from the past 20+ years. Most of

...Waterlog ...



these friends are from the Seattle area with others from Oregon, Idaho, California, Alaska, and British Columbia. Also, there are four members from the Oregon Houseboat Community and it is always fun to compare notes on life styles. “**Debbie Woodbury & Ren Nanstad**, our next door neighbors on the Log Foundation were in Mazatlan for two weeks and the four of us ate dinner together several evenings as well as having Thanksgiving dinner together. Ren went golfing with another friend of ours, so Sid took us 3 ladies to lunch and spent the day with us. Debbie nicknamed him ‘Cabana Boy’ and we all got a lot of mileage out of that!” Just as Jann and Sid returned, **Sandi and Mike Linus** from Log Foundation flew down for a 10 day stay - this was in the middle of the worst rain so they were delighted to escape to the sun. Also, **Stan & Lana Schmidt** from Portage Bay were in Mazatlan at the same time. Getting a break from Seattle’s winter, **Penny Lewis** (Shelby Group) took off for central Mexico and more time for her favorite travel occupation, watercolor painting. Most of her painting trips have been to Europe, so the colorful journals she brings back will have a Spanish flavor this time. **Jim Weyand** and **Marilyn Robertson** (Fuhrman Ave) spent three weeks in Mexico visiting lesser known colonial cities, San Luis Potosi, Aguas Calientes and the beautiful Zacatecas, as well as spending a week in Guadalajara and the once tiny pottery village of Tlaquepaque.

Reports from Docks around Lake Union and Portage Bay:

Nesika Chuck (2466 WL) **Marty Greer** was invited – by her Mom – to be the “friend” on an all-

expenses-paid trip to Peru and Machu Picchu. Her mother, a travel agent in Florida, was given this trip in recognition for outstanding sales. Marty’s Mom, at 84, is still working every day. She arrived in Cuzco a bit leery about the 11,000 foot altitude, but after one restful afternoon and evening at that altitude, she was good to go. The next morning they set out on the spectacular trip to the ancient ruins. “We travelled by private train, owned by Orient Express – very elegant, with the local cocktails, Pisco Sours, and gourmet luncheon served en route.” The trip took 3 hours, passing through the Sacred Valley, to the bottom of the mountain. Here a bus took them up a winding road to the site. “We broke into groups of 6, each with a guide, and walked for several amazing hours through the ‘Lost City of the Incas.’ It’s breathtaking; that’s all I can say. If you ever have a chance to go, do!”

Westlake Cooperative (2420 WL) **Ann Bassetti** extends a welcome to **Kevin McCarthy** as a new



Photo by Sid McFarland

Ron Nanstad and Debbie Woodbury. Thanksgiving in Mazatlan.

owner. “It’s a little anticlimactic, as Kevin and his sweetie, **Madeline Binley**, have been living here for over a year. Nonetheless, it’s better for all of us that they are owners. Glad it’s official!” Thanks to the wonders of the Web and email, enabling long-lost and far-flung friends to find each other, **Eugene Nutt** (husband of Ann Bassetti) went to Houston for an exhilarating

reunion with childhood friends. The last time he had seen them was in 1951, in the San Tome oil camp in eastern Venezuela. That year, the nine teens were sent to various boarding schools in the US. The group caught up on 50+ year-old camp gossip, and revelled being with companions who know what “chiguire” and “morichal” mean.

Log Foundation: From **Mark & Jamie** in Log Foundation comes this animal tale: Jamie went to their small, outside fridge to get the loaf of bread she needed, and it was gone. She called her husband, Mark and accused him of throwing it away. He swore he hadn't. A couple of days later in the wee hours of the morning when they got up for work, there was a large raccoon on the back porch with the refrigerator door open and a beer in its paws. Before getting caught, its accumulated loot included a carton of yogurt, a new bowl of unopened Cool Whip and several beers. A new lock has been installed on the fridge.

Home & Garden TV (HGTV) is currently wrapping up a one-hour program on houseboats across the coun-

morning of Super Bowl Sunday, the crew toured the lake by boat with **Rick Miner**. Winter gloom was in full force! It was so dark during the day, lights needed to be on. The program style is ‘walk & talk’, and Blair mentioned it took her a few takes to get it down. The focus of the program is design and the uniqueness of each home. At Blair & Bob's the crew focused on the kitchen. Bob made a salad and lattes, and Blair made homemade pasta and grilled baby artichokes. It was fun to feel like they were on a cooking show! Blair says, “Since I am one whose thumb is any shade but green, it amuses me to have Home & Garden pay a visit! Being filmed in winter, there was not attention to “garden” — the show is all about “home”. I was surprised, when I saw that the crew was admiring a large terra cotta pot filled with weeds strangling a palm! I told them those are weeds and would not be good to show on HGTV. Later, Bob saw them filming the weeds and told them the same thing! So, who knows what will end up on the show!”



Dr. Jim and amigo in Tlaquepaque.

Photo by Marilyn Robertson

try. A three-person crew from KPI Productions in NYC came to Seattle in early February to capture some local color for their stories. Two homes in the Log Foundation were filmed: **Heinz Strobl's** houseboat, designed by architect **Gene Morris** (2351 FV), and the home of **Bob Burk & Blair Robbins**. The crew also filmed Gene's houseboat. When the sun broke through on the

Tiff McNamara sends news from **The Lake Union** (2031 FV). Best Wishes to **Ethan Lowry** and **Nicole Halabisky** who were engaged in January and plan a wedding in Italy this June. **Larry Logue** climbed Imje Tse (Island Peak) in Nepal which stands at 20,283 feet last October. The climb was a little tougher than he anticipated but Larry is modest. **Shawn Roseman** and **Isaac Ruiz** were once again some of the key organizers for the Dia del Muertos festival at the Seattle Center last October. **Coco Hess** is in Baja, Mexico working for NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) as a sailing instructor, and is starting the process of fulfilling her dream to go cruising. The dock welcomes renters **Ray Fortuna** and **Emily Welch** as well as **Scott Kissell** and **Sony Burba**. **Tiff and Brad McNamara** are headed to Beijing, China in March. Their remodel of houseboat B is in the framing stage. UW rower **Karen Magnuson** has been toiling away through winter training. Come see her row in the Opening Day Regatta on Saturday, May 6th at 10:00 am. Go Huskies!!!!

... more Waterlog

Tenas Chuck (2339) This February some Lake Union Trekkers (**Barb and Jim Donnette, Mary and Giff Jones, Val and Barry Burgess and Dean Sampson**) explored part of the Methow Valley on cross-country skis. "Our lodging consisted of Matt's Cabin at Brown's Farm, a quaint cabin with all the amenities including a woodstove and plenty of jigsaw puzzles to challenge us." Farm chickens provided fresh eggs for their morning. "The Methow Valley trail is a network of non-motorized trails that wind through valleys and hills, along rivers and creeks, old homesteads and thousands of aspen trees.

"After we practiced up on our new found skills, we headed to the Rendezvous hills. A long climb of 6 miles up Cow Creek brought us to Gardner Hut." A snowmobile hauling system allowed the group to be gear free to enjoy the climb. They spent 3 days in a primitive hut. "Accommodations were 5 mattresses on the floor of a 1 ½ story 16' x 20' hut. There was no running water. We melted snow to wash our dishes, and chopped firewood to keep warm. The days were spent enjoying the silent, clear air and spectacular views while skiing, snowshoeing and sledding. The evenings were filled with simple pleasures; listening to the crackle of the fire burning in the stove, playing Mexican Train and watching as the clouds dispersed and stars appeared."

Val has started a new business. The LAKE UNION TREKKERS are now TENDERFOOT ADVENTURES doing the same walking and hiking on Tuesday and Friday as well as biking, kayaking, skiing, and snowshoeing. It is a Fitness Investment for Retirement club, with your health and fitness the goal.

If you are interested in joining us on these great adventures and fitness plan, please contact Val at coachval@comcast.net.

Special **Mallard Cove** houseboat burgees were designed and distributed to all owners by **Ed Buchwald**, self-declared and unchallenged Mallard Cove "Yacht Club" Grand Commodore. The colorful burgees now fly from Mallard Cove boats and houseboats alike, and proudly adorn our local fleet of Melges 24 racing dinghies, owned by 10% of our dock. OK, it's only two boats, but they include a concentration of Mallard Cove Melges racers, including **Mike Massa, Tim and Melissa Ahlers, Steve Strockbine, and Jim Caputo**. Caputo's boat took first place overall in the Lake Union Goosebump Series this winter! **Giff Jones** has been involved with the PNB since the early 90's. He has taken 'stage prop' roles like a guard, servant, sentry, in most of the classical ballets. "I got Mary into it a few ago, and she's done 'Swan Lake' with me

and we always play Grandmother and Grandfather together for the party scene in 'Nutcracker'. This spring I'll play a court guard in 'Sleeping Beauty' which opens April 13." Last December **Giff and Mary** did their usual 'Nutcracker' performances, then drove to mid-coast CA for Christmas. They didn't return until the end of February, hoping the rain had finally stopped. New owners **Paul and Linda Ellingson** of Tacoma, have purchased HB #14 from Rick Warner. Welcome aboard, Paul & Linda. **Al Hendrickson**, an original Mallard Cove owner, recently celebrated his 86th birth-



Photo by Jann McFarland

Display of Weeds for HGTV!

day. He used to walk several miles daily, and still walks at least a mile every day, rain, snow, or shine!

Myrna Cordova reports **Houseboat Harbor, Inc.** is happy to welcome a new resident: **Becca Lederer**. She is the granddaughter of **Ethel Scribner** and has moved into Ethel's home. The two are 'trading places' for a few months. Ethel is visiting family and friends in the Baltimore area, while Becca is enjoying the houseboat life in Seattle. 'Congratulations' to **Don Brownlee**—our #1 NASA Stardust Mission scientist and investigator from the UW. Way to go! Don is a soft spoken, intergalactic, planetary jet setter who really has stars in his eyes and comet dust too. Don and his wife, **Paula Szkody**, are the most 'astronomical' houseboaters around. **Fritz and Margaret Wagner** are proud of son,

Ryan who may now be addressed as Captain Ryan. He received his license recently after long hours of study. Ryan is currently on a fishing boat in the Bering Sea. Brrrr! On a warmer note, **Steve and Sheri Greaves** recently attended the America Power Boat Association's annual meeting in Fort Lauderdale. Steve is the Chairman of the Pro Outboard category of this Association. He attended meetings for four days and Sheri took notes. (She did 'escape' to bask in the Florida sun for a few hours).

Megan Smith and **Jen Kern** bought Fritz Hedges little houseboat on **Dock Henderson Coop** and rebuilt. Each writes about what brought them to the lake. Jen says, "After a couple years working at the Fred Hutch I'm returning to work at Woodland Park Zoo. I rented a houseboat on Fairview many moons ago and fell in love with life on the water. As soon as I stepped foot in this place I knew this was home. Of course, it was a 576 square ft studio at the time but once we knew we could build a second floor that was it! **Eric Hogeboom** (Shelby Group) and Envirotecure did an amazing job of making use of every available inch. Our Dock Henderson co-op mates are a great bunch of people. We are so grateful to be here and still pinch ourselves every day. The hardest thing about houseboat living so far is having to leave on beautiful mornings to go to work!!!" Megan Smith writes she has always been a water person. She was shooting photographs of Lake Union houseboats and noticed there was an open house on a houseboat for sale so she took a look at it and fell in love. "I asked Jen to check it out and she said 'Let's do it!' We love all the critters and living on the water. I do Mobile In-Home Technical Support and I work at the Hutch supporting the computers that cull data from the scientific instruments in the labs. Going home after work is like being on vacation! We ended up buying on Portage Bay, and just love it."

Betty Swift, Diana Forman and Richie Meyer report on doings on and off **Shelby Group Dock**. **Richie Meyer** (1213 Shelby) former CEO of KCTS and long time Floating Home resident has published a book about the legendary Chinese film star Ruan Ling-yu. Richie became interested in early Chinese films while a Fulbright scholar in China in 1995. The Hong Kong University Press through the University of Washington Press has made available to readers in the US "Ruan Ling-yu: The Goddess of Shanghai". Included with the book is a DVD of Ruan's most famous film "The Goddess" which was restored by Meyer. The book tells the story of her life and the turbulent times of the 1930s in Shanghai. Last fall **Bob and Diana Forman** of Shelby Dock spent three weeks in the Mid-Atlantic states. After sightseeing in Washington, DC, Diana participated in the largest peace march of her life - 300,000 people massed in the Ellipse between the White

House and the Washington Monument. Then they spent three days with Shelby Dock friends **Molly and John Bailey** at John's family home on Maryland's Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay. Later Diana and Bob traveled to the foothills of Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains and on to Lancaster to visit the Ephrata Cloisters, a 300 year old religious community whose choral music has been preserved and is performed today by the Ephrata Cloister Chorus. The Brandywine region of Pennsylvania provided a finale to the trip as well as an opportunity to soak in the beauty of the area's green fields, split rail fences, and stone houses that so inspired the work of Andrew Wyeth, his father, siblings, and son. When she's back in Seattle, Diana is helping to organize an event that will raise money to bring an Iraqi child with war-related injuries to the Northwest for specialized medical treatment. The Walk for Peace and Healing will take place on Saturday, May 20, at Green Lake as the culmination of fund-raising that both adults and children will undertake in the weeks prior to the walk around the lake.

www.walkforpeaceandhealing.com will give you details and information on how to become involved. Winds of February did their best to set sail to a number of Shelby Group houseboats and the dock now gleams with several new sets of stainless steel moorage arms. **Penny Lewis'** home was so firmly secured, and the wind so strong, that main dock timbers were split. The dock has two generations of owners now that Richie Meyer's son, **Mahlon Meyer**, has bought Wes Cherry's houseboat. Mahlon, currently in graduate studies at the University of Washington, often helps as translator for Richie and his wife, **Susan Harmon**, on their travels in China. **Danny Robinson** and **Karen Donahue** have married and moved to a full-time home on Capitol Hill. Danny's houseboat, one of the fine original sprung-roofed homes, continues to be the base for good parties and music. Lucy, brand new granddaughter of **Molly and John Bailey**, was born in early January and the thrilled grandparents have been shuttling back and forth to her home in Sun Valley. Between trips, however, they turned west for a rambling tour of the birds of Japan and some special time in crane sanctuaries.

Photo by J. Weyand

Special thanks to all dock contacts who have done such a terrific job collecting interesting stories about our neighbors.

Send dock news to
Marilyn Robertson
isobel.rob@earthlink.net



Marilyn, in Guadalajara.

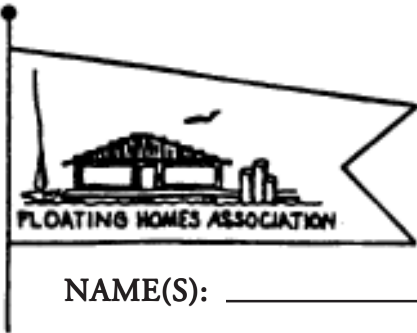
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