

FOUNDED 1962



FLOATING HOMES  
ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 150

*Newsletter*

WINTER 2006



The resident Texas Chuck Blue Heron keeps a wary eye on Marilyn Robertson's clicking camera while he goes for a little lunch near the FHA office last July.

# Christmas Caroling by Kayak

December 8th, 9th, and 10th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Every December, NWOC & the Lake Union houseboating community organizes caroling tours to benefit the Seattle Children's Home, and the Homestead Community Land Trust. We take 30 people per session, usually stopping at houseboat parties, where we spend twenty minutes or so (seated in our kayaks) singing some of everyone's old favorite carols. Don't worry, you don't need to be a good singer, just game!

Carolers pay \$40 a head for this unique experience, with proceeds going to the above charities. NWOC provides kayaks, gear, four instructor/escorts per session and basically everything else including song sheets but excluding voice lessons. Wear warm (water & wind resistant) clothing and bring the following:

•Poagies or warm, waterproof gloves, latex dish gloves  
•Warm hat, Sleigh Bells •Good flashlight (headlamp is highly preferable)•Battery operated lights or decorations, antlers, etc. (optional - but the more lights the better)

NWOC also needs houseboaters hosting holiday parties to join in the fun. Times are roughly 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30 PM each night. All you need to do is throw a party and we'll come by and serenade you with lots of gusto, if not technical expertise in the art of singing. Sometimes hosts supply cookies, hot cider or other refreshments, but that is up to you.

Contact John or Herbie Meyer at 206-281-9694, mail@nwoc.com, www.nwoc.com for more info, or to sign up for a caroler visit. This is a really fun and unique charity benefit, and we can't do it without your generous help. Thanks!

## HOLIDAY COCOA CRUISES

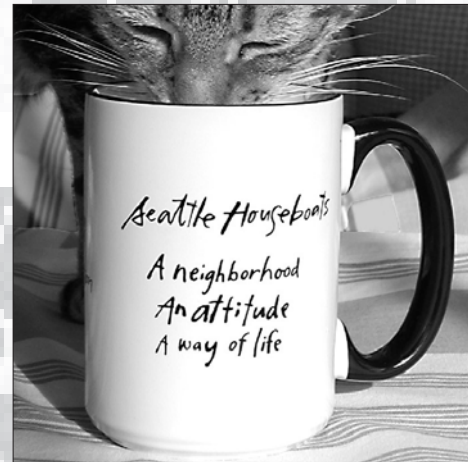
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# Holiday !



## Houseboatique



**We are excited to be setting up an online store using our houseboat design on a wide array of items in time for Holiday orders. There will also be new items available at our Annual Holiday Sale this winter at the FHA office, 2329 Fairview Ave East.**

**A flyer with more details will be sent out towards the end of November, but please save these shopping dates:**

**Saturday, December 16th & Sunday the 17th, from 11am to 4 pm  
Saturday, December 23rd & Sunday the 24th, from 11 am to 4 pm**

**- Giff and Mary Jones**



Winter 2006

## The Floating Homes Association

2329 Fairview E  
Seattle, WA 98102

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**Now and Then**

*Newsletter:* **Marilyn,  
Jann, Bill**



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*Please visit* [seattlefloatinghomes.org/news.asp](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org/news.asp)

Most of the photos in the *Newsletter* are in **color**. See the originals online at our website. Our archives include this issue and go back to 2002.

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## Association Standing Committee Reports



### Legislative & Legal Sheri Greaves, Chair

Mike Ryherd, our Floating Homes Association lobbyist, Melissa Ahlers (FHA Board), and I met with Michelle Hagen, Director of Commercial/Business Division, and Joe Arnold, Commercial Appraiser, on September 28<sup>th</sup>. We had a very interesting and informative meeting. Our goal was to have them explain to us how they appraise the floating homes community, both personal property (the houseboat itself) and the land portion. The main thing that we all agreed on is that appraising floating homes is a very difficult job. There are so many different scenarios and dock ownership models that having black-and-white procedures is really impossible, but they are making every attempt to be fair and equitable in their appraisals across the floating homes community.

Here is a brief re-cap of what we learned.

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# Association Standing Committee Reports

## Personal Property

All floating homes are given a grade of 1-5 based on 3 elements:

- Quality of construction
- Condition (how the structure has been maintained)
- Square footage

That's it. They do not take anything else into account. So, if you want to appeal your floating home appraisal, you must be able to prove them wrong about one of those three things.

## Land

Land is valued as if it is vacant.

The "sites" are divided by value, the site closest to the land being valued at \$135,000, the one on the end being valued at \$350,000. The sites in between those two endpoints are increased proportionately. For example, if you have three sites on one side of a dock, the site closest to the shore would be \$135,000, the second site would be \$242,500, and the site on the end would be \$350,000, for a total of \$727,500 for the value of the land for those three sites. If there were four sites, the values of each site starting at the shore would be \$135,000, \$206,667, \$278,333, and \$350,000, for a total of \$970,000. You get the picture.

This is how the "view" element comes into the picture. It's easy to have the perception that we are being double-taxed by the view coming in twice, on the houseboat itself and on the land. From what we learned from our meeting, though, the view is only taken into account on the land portion of the appraisal, not the floating home. (Remember, there are only three elements used on the home...see above.)

Another issue that has caused us concern is how we are

taxed on DNR land. We are NOT taxed on DNR land. The appraiser uses the same method for calculating the total value of the land as noted above (a value per site that increases from \$135,000 to \$350,000 according to the location of the site), but when he has the total, he then looks at what is DNR land and takes that portion of the value and assigns it to the DNR parcel, not to the floating home parcel. It is true that DNR doesn't have to pay taxes on it, but neither do we.

So, what does this mean to you regarding appealing your assessment?

First, keep in mind that the appraiser is only the appraiser. He comes up with the value of the land and of the floating home, but the King County Assessor's Office has nothing to do with what that translates to in taxes. The County decides on what the tax levy is, what special levies might be passed by the voters (schools, parks, etc.), to determine the tax rate. Your taxes can go up even if your appraised value does not, so they want us to know not to blame them for that!

When looking at whether to appeal or not, take into account the three things (quality of construction, condition, and square footage) for the personal property, then look at your location on the dock and estimate what the land value for your site is. Add those two together and ask yourself this question: Can I sell my houseboat for this?

One other issue that has always befuddled me is that your appraised value is supposed to be close to the market value of your home; however, we know that the floating home market is unique. There isn't much rhyme or reason in what some people will pay for a floating home. That said, though, in looking at a lot of examples after learning what we did at the meeting, the

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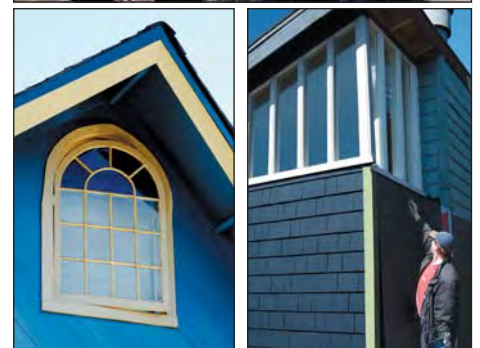
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# Association Standing Committee Reports

combination values of the home plus the value of the site is really not that far off of what you would expect to be a reasonable selling price for your home.

Also, note that appraisals lag behind valuation by at least 1-1/2 years or so. The Appraiser is required to actually look at our homes every six years, so he looks at about a sixth of them each year. The appraisal you just received could be the value of your home as of January 2005, or possibly even further back, so that also must be taken into account.

I'll close as I started...this is a very complex and difficult issue to understand. However, we left the meeting with a much better understanding than before we arrived, and I do feel that both Michelle and Joe are very willing to talk with us and help us understand this process. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to e-mail me at [sgraves@fhcrc.org](mailto:sgraves@fhcrc.org) and I will do my best to get answers for you.

Thanks!



## Environmental

Jan Carlson, Chair

### SALUTE TO THE SOUND

Enrico Pozzo, one of my neighbors, joined Environmental Committee members Pat & Dean Sampson, Bob & Diana Forman, Sheryl Landon and me to attend the festivities at the Salute to the Sound annual fund raiser for the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. We munched on the great food – both seafood and vegetarian, observed the fascinating exhibits in the Seattle Aquarium, and traded stories about the giant octopus climbing out of its tank and crossing the floor to feed on the animals in the touch tank on the other side of the room. All of the participants listened to the impassioned pleas from King County Executive Ron Sims, and Mayor Greg Nickels to care for Puget Sound and water environments that feed it, and to support the PSA, but they were preaching to the choir. Everyone got out their checkbooks. Puget Sound is losing ground on the pollution front so PSA needs help in the form of both donations and time from as many people as possible. Please go to [www.pugetsoundkeeper.org](http://www.pugetsoundkeeper.org) to find out ways you can help.

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# Association Standing Committee Reports



## Security & Safety

Giff Jones  
Tiffany McNamara  
Co-Chairs

The houseboat community may want to be made aware of the Seattle budget process. Both the SPD and SFD are under staffed and this has a direct effect on the deterioration of the quality of life in our neighborhood. Both departments do a superb job of doing the best they can with the resources they have. In brief the Mayor of Seattle has submitted his budget requests to the Seattle City Council for review and approval. City Council Member Peter Steinbrueck spoke in person at the EPCPC (East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition) meeting recently in support of more staffing for the SPD specifically. He said that if you do not tell the Council to redirect the budget for more public safety staff it will not happen. We need 250 more Police Officers just to be at the median coverage when compared with other cities our size nationwide. Council Member Steinbrueck's proposal is to staff an additional 50 Police Officers every year for the next five years. For more information on this issue you can look at a web site put together by Andrew Taylor who is the Miller Park Block Watch Captain. <http://tinyurl.com/yjzbey>

You can influence Seattle budget priorities by telling the Seattle City Council Members what you want. Visit, call, write, email. Tell them specifically that you want more Police Officers. City Council: 206-684-8888 or [budget@seattle.gov](mailto:budget@seattle.gov) or P.O. Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025. – **Tiff McNamara**

Please visit

[seattlefloatinghomes.org/lake/dockwatch\\_Archives.asp](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org/lake/dockwatch_Archives.asp)

Our website's 10/26/06 Dockwatch Archives entry is an expanded version of Tiff's article here and features **live links** to Andrew Taylor's website and individual Seattle City Council members.

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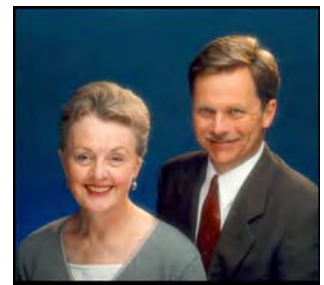
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# Association Standing Committee Reports

## Westlake Parking

Report adapted from SDOT summary of meeting

On October 5<sup>th</sup> SDOT met with the Westlake Community representatives. Because communication between the City and community members had not been effective, SDOT elected to involve Marty Curry, a community outreach consultant. Ms. Curry's proposal, based on interviews with members of the Westlake community, is to get agreement on a community involvement plan. Her suggestion involves first forming three **stakeholder** groups. The stakeholder groups would likely be (1) residents: including houseboaters, live-aboards and condo owners, (2) business and property owners/managers and employees, and (3) marina owners/operators and marina users. Each group would hold a series of meetings. The next element would be to create a **parking workgroup** made up of representatives of each stakeholder group. The parking workgroup would,

through a series of possibly **five workgroup** meetings, develop recommended revisions to the parking management plan.

After discussion of concerns, reservations and expectations, the Westlake community representatives present agreed to proceed with the stakeholder and workgroup meetings concept. SDOT will schedule the stakeholder meetings.

For information on the project, [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation\\_westlake.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/paystation_westlake.htm)

To get on the WANA mailing list, email [westlakenorthparking@gmail.com](mailto:westlakenorthparking@gmail.com) – **Mark Koenig**

## Membership & Communications

Marilyn Robertson, Chair

### New Logo

The Floating Homes Association is 44 years old and while many of our houseboats have been floating longer than that, our FHA logo is getting ready to retire. In its place we have created a more colourful and up to date logo to reflect the new century we have entered and the combination of new and old houseboats in our community. A huge thank you goes out to the FHA Board for their patience as we worked for over 2 years to get to our new look. We'd also like to extend our thanks to Pivot and Levy for their patience with us throughout the process. Kudos to artist Ryan Middleton who graciously hung in there through year two to get us a final product that was just right!

Some things never change: For those of you clinging to history, you'll be pleased to know that Sheri the Seagull from the 1962 logo has flown right onto our new updated image as she soars past the Seattle skyline and invades our outdoor picnics. While the original logo is retired, the intent of the logo and the Floating Homes Association is still the same: To protect, preserve and promote

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# Association Standing Committee Reports



## FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

the vitality of Seattle's unique floating homes community through education, advocacy and collaboration. We hope you like our new community representation and more importantly that you value what FHA does to preserve our collective, precious lifestyle.

Look for the incorporation of the new logo into the first issue of the newsletter in 2007. – **Emily Hine**

### Floating Homes Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
12 November 10:00am - 2:00 pm	South Lake Union Shoreline Restoration Work Party	Meet at 1609 Fairview E
18 November, 9:00am - noon	West Lake Union 2nd Annual "Clean Green" Event	Westlake Ave N AGC Bldg (Starbucks)
24 November to 30 December	Electric Boats Holiday Cocoa Cruises	See Related Article
December nightly to the 23rd	Argosy Cruises Christmas Ships	206.623.1445 or see www.argosycruises.com for schedule
2 December 10:00:am - 2:00pm	Colonnade Park Work Party	Just below Lakeview Blvd between Newton and Howe
16 & 17 December 11:00am - 4:00pm	Houseboatique Holiday Sale	FHA Office 2329 Fariveiew E
23 & 24 December 11:00am - 4:00pm	Houseboatique Holiday Sale	FHA Office 2329 Fariveiew E



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# The Plantsman of Tenas Chuck

By Marilyn Robertson

Tenas Chuck, 2331 Fairview bursts into bloom each spring, and the extravaganza lasts until autumn. Bob Lilly is responsible for the lush collection of unusual plants. Many in the Floating Homes Community know Bob Lilly as the author of, *Lilly Pad*, a regular column in the FHA newsletter. But few know the real man behind the potted plants on Tenas Chuck.

Bob Lilly is a Seattle native. Born at Swedish Hospital, he grew up in Laurelhurst, went to local schools and left to attend Washington State University to study Botany. At the end of the first year Bob switched to Fine Arts. He specialized in painting, primarily abstract landscapes. He doesn't paint much today, but still does pen and ink drawings. During high school and college, he worked summers at Anhalt's nursery in the University Village. After graduation, he joined the nursery staff full time. "Most people who paint have to work at something else to make a living. For me the something else became all consuming."

Ned Wells, who Bob met at Anhalt's, opened Wells Medina Nursery. A year later Bob joined the staff. His training was on the job. "When I was at Wells Medina the average stay was nine years. We all knew our stuff really, really well because we had to answer every possible question people could come up with. I had been doing that for two years before I joined Wells. Ned had been answering questions for seven years at Anhalt's."

Bob remained at Wells Medina for 17 years. He was a sales person and grew perennials. When he started they produced 5 to 6 thousand perennials per year on site for sales there. It was pretty common for nurseries to produce on site but urban sprawl changed everything. Property prices skyrocketed and it became impossible for independent nurseries to remain big producers. Today most retail nurseries buy plants from small specialty nurseries. "At Wells, I began cultivating growers because the change was coming." When he started at Wells there weren't any grasses, hostas or many perennials we now consider commonplace. Bob began growing these unavailable plants but as soon as

he found a grower, he would go on to more obscure, unusual plants.

In 1989, he left Wells to work for The Herb Farm. Bob was the nursery manager and grew herbs and perennials for sale and he installed their perennial border. He remained for two years, leaving to join a plant wholesale business. Today, Bob is a plant broker and sales representative. He sells bare root perennial plugs. "I'm no different from the broker and sales rep who sells office supplies except, I sell live goods." Everything is 'drop shipped' meaning it is shipped directly from grower to customer. Bob also does design work, landscape and consulting. He is an Arboretum volunteer and one of the crew leaders for the Northwest Perennial Alliance caring for the Bellevue Botanical Garden Perennial Border, a project he was involved in from the beginning. After two years preparation, the Border was installed in 1990 and opened in 1991.

Why does a man so interested in gardening live in a houseboat? "I needed a place to live! When I started working at Wells Medina I wanted a place easy to care for. I didn't want a garden because I knew I'd be exhausted at the end of each day." One October in the early 1970s he found his houseboat. "My house was just a little fisherman's cabin. Built in 1927." It was a houseboat with several very small additions. Bob's only addition is a porch. The house had stringers replaced in the 80s but, "I think I'm on my third deck!"

Bob laughs when he recalls how he almost sold the houseboat in that first month. "It was a stormy October. I was working every day at Wells. I remember being dizzy all the time. It was excruciating. I was dizzy for three weeks. On the 21<sup>st</sup> day the dizziness stopped and has never returned."

"How did I get garden tenancy of several houseboats? It all started with Alpha McClung. She lived in the houseboat next to me." She was getting older so he began helping with watering but gradually took over. With Tom and Peggy Stockley's house Bob would water while they were away and added a pot or two. Several houseboats were rentals so Bob watered those planters and added more planters. Some houseboaters, like Jan Knutson asked Bob to grow plants for them. "One thing led to another. It just grew like Topsy!"

But Bob is not confined to houseboat gardens. He has access to a friend's garden at a small Green Lake house. "That garden has a sprinkler system so I visit it one day a month to give it my attention. It's a typical nightmare Seattle yard with morning glory growing from two neighboring yards!"

Bob isn't interested in a land house because "there is a tremendous amount of light on the water. I produce plants here I can't grow elsewhere. It's milder on the water, so tender plants survive. When you walk down our dock you see things you've never seen anywhere. That's because I'm growing plants that are marginally hardy." His involvement with NW Perennial Alliance Seed Exchange, dedicated to conserving rare plants, allows Bob to grow any number of unusual plants.

He developed a liking for travel through Florence Yerxa.



Photo by Marilyn Robertson

**BOB LILLY: Plantsman of Tenas Chuck.**

Florence taught a 'Summer in Greece' program at Bellevue Community College. One year, she wanted to take a group of Tenas Chuck houseboaters to Greece. So Bob, Cynthia Moffitt, Tom and Peggy Stockley, Florence and several other Tenas Chuck residents, a total of eight people, ended up in a van on a tour of Athens, the Peloponnese and the island of Skiros. Florence had been drawn to Skiros because the British poet, Rupert Brooke is buried there. Bob, Tom and Peggy continued to visit Skiros after Florence was no longer able to travel. Bob takes 'busman's holidays', visiting British gardens on two-week bus tours. He made an agriculture-focused trip to India and in 2000 he attended seed trials in Holland and visited a giant garden show the Dutch put on every 10 years.

As if he doesn't have enough to keep him busy, Bob has co-authored a book on Perennials titled **PERENNIALS: A Gardeners Reference** by Kerry Becker, Susan Carter and Bob Lilly. Look for it in the first half of 2007.

### Lush growth on Tenas Chuck flowering under Bob Lilly's supervision.

Photo by Marilyn Robertson



## Herbicide Use in Portage Bay

### Fall 2006 update

By Diana Forman

In October the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) decided for the third time since last spring in favor of the Department of Ecology regarding the legitimacy of the new general permit regulating the application of herbicides to state waters. Richard Smith of Smith & Lowney, environmental attorneys working on behalf of the Washington Toxics Coalition, had moved for a summary judgment to essentially invalidate the permit ahead of the appeal hearing scheduled for November. Smith based his main argument on the new general permit's violations of existing regulations – particularly in extending the period for which individual herbicide applicators' permits are valid from one year to five without requiring a management plan. Smith sees the decision in favor of Ecology as "leaving the planning requirement without meaning."

As a result of this decision and the two previous PCHB judgments that have gone against them, Smith &

Lowney has decided not to pursue the remaining complaints that were part of the original appeal. The PCHB will hear arguments on the remaining appeals on November 6, but that hearing is expected to consist only of those issues raised by pesticide applicators arguing for changes to the new permit that will facilitate herbicide treatments. Smith believes that "DOE will mount an able defense of the permit"; Smith & Lowney will not participate in the hearing.

In the meantime residents and businesses close to the yacht clubs sponsoring herbicide treatments on Portage Bay have received notification that the bay "may be treated with aquatic herbicide(s)" on or between October 24 and November 11. The proposed herbicide – most probably Reward – contains Diquat Dibromide, a chemical judged to be of "moderate toxicity" with the "potential" for ground water contamination by the Pesticide Action Network's Pesticide Database. More powerful than Fluridone, Diquat is believed to be effective in controlling both Elodea and Myriophyllum

(Milfoil) but can be used only during the "work window" of October 1 through April 15 because of the threat it poses to endangered salmon and other fish in the area late spring through early fall. This window is determined by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and seeks to protect chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and large mouth bass in the Lake Washington Ship Canal (Chittenden Locks to the east end of the Montlake Cut) from the effects of chemicals used to control aquatic weeds.

With the failure of the Smith & Lowney/Washington Toxics Coalition appeal of the general permit, Portage Bay residents must brace for four more years of herbicide treatments early spring through late fall with little recourse – despite the existence of effective, non-toxic means of control. At this point those of us who remain committed to an herbicide-free future for Portage Bay are gathering our wits (such as they are) and our energies to locate partners at the city and state levels to help us address long-term water quality issues that affect us all.

*Who Are These People, Anyway?*

# The FHA Board

Compiled by Jann McFarland

Who are the people that serve on the Floating Homes Association Board? Why do they continue to serve year after year spending countless hours volunteering on the issues and projects that help to make our community a richer, safer place to live? What are their areas of passion and expertise? We thought it would be fun and informative to introduce these people to you in this issue of the newsletter. Each Board member has written their own story.

## Bill Keasler, President

### Wandesforde Dock, Fairview

Bill Keasler moved into his first houseboat with his wife Caryl in 1970. He had spent many of his summers on the beach when he was young and the houseboats attracted him because they combined living on the beach with the edgy life of the city. He slid easily into houseboating, sailing and an exciting new career in the early computer industry. His bucolic life caught up with him several years later, however, when a protest of his landlord's attempt to move him to another spot escalated into a lawsuit which ended up with the Floating Homes Equity Ordinance being declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court. This unfolding disaster propelled him into the arms of the Floating Homes Association, where he became its president in 1980. In spite of that, Bill and Caryl lost their first houseboat because of the lawsuit. Bill hung on as FHA president, though, and eventually saw a new, perhaps more constitutional, Equity Ordinance passed in 1984. That version of the Ordinance remains in place today. So does Bill, in his second houseboat, as president of the Association.



## Marty Greer, Vice President

### 2460, Inc., Westlake

I've lived in Seattle for 38 years, the last 20 of those on a houseboat on Westlake. Soon after moving into my houseboat, a neighbor, another Marty who was on the Board, conned me into dressing up in an elephant costume for a skit at an Annual Meeting of the FHA, then into working on an auction, then into having my house on the tour, then into running the tour, then the other Marty moved to land and left this Marty on the Board. I enjoy being involved with the FHA because I get to know a lot of



houseboaters and so have lots of places to stop for a cold one when cruising around in my inflatable.

## Michele Finnegan, Secretary

### DOX, Fairview

Michele was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan. During college, she finagled a way to spend a summer at a marine biology institute on the Oregon coast. After years of dreading winter's snow and summer's humidity and black flies, she knew she struck gold. Not long after graduating, she packed her bags and has lived in Seattle ever since.

Since 2003 she has lived on DOX where she again feels she struck gold. While the first time she saw a houseboat she knew she'd love living in one, what she didn't know was how much she would enjoy her neighbors and being part of the houseboat community. Wanting to give back to the community and protect this wonderful lifestyle, Michele joined her dock board and recently the FHA board where she currently plays the role of Secretary. When not at home, you can usually find Michele working at Seattle Parks and Recreation or spending time with friends enjoying other aspects of northwest living.



## Ed Waddington & Julia Forbes, Treasurers

### Tenas Chuck, Fairview

Julia, who grew up in Wyoming, decided that she liked living on the water better than living on dry prairies, and in 1974, she moved onto their houseboat at Tenas Chuck on Fairview.

Ed, who grew up in Ontario, Canada, decided that he liked the west coast better than Ontario, particularly because Julia was on the west coast. He joined Julia at Tenas Chuck in 1981, after finishing grad studies at UBC in Vancouver. The FHA Board invited Ed to be Treasurer in 1986. The Board members thought that, as a scientist, he should be able to balance numbers, but would not know enough about high finance to indulge in creative accounting. Because the position requires a fair bit of time and timeliness, Ed and Julia were appointed as co-Treasurers in 1990 and have been re-appointed annually since then. Serving on the Board keeps them in touch with the larger houseboat community. Ed is now a professor of Earth and Space Sciences at UW, where he teaches classes about glaciers and leads research projects on ice and climate change. Ed and Julia share their floating home with their two cats, Kimble and Tinker.



## **Melissa Ahlers, Trustee and Fundraising Chair**

### **Mallard Cove on Fairview**

By day, I am a real estate agent with Lake & Company Real Estate, Board member of the Eastlake Community Council, and a member of the advocacy and policy committee with Social Venture Partners as well as serving on the FHA Board. By night, you can find me sailing, enjoying food and friends at any of the local Eastlake haunts, reading our neighbors' subscription to the Economist, or making s'mores on our rooftop fire pit. (Yes, Tiff & Giff, I know, safety first!) Loving the water and the city, my husband Tim and I purchased a houseboat in Mallard Cove in 2000. In my first community job, I was Volunteer Coordinator for the 2001 Houseboat Tour and have been involved with the tour and the FHA ever since.



You can see us regularly on Tuesday nights sailing our Melges 24 in Duck Dodge or taking the boat to visit Tim's parents in their houseboat on Portage Bay. We feel so fortunate to live in this spectacular setting and appreciate the wonderful community we get to call home. Thank you for making the tour so much fun to be involved with and a joy to produce.

## **Bob Bowman, Trustee and Environmental Committee**

### **Lee's Moorings, Northlake**

I grew up in Seattle on north Capital Hill. I first became interested in houseboats and houseboaters when I was in grade school. A friend and I used to motor around Portage Bay in a small dingy. The folks who lived in the "mysterious homes floating on logs" gave us treats.

I bought my first houseboat, located on Westlake under the Aurora Bridge, in 1966 while in college. It cost \$1300 and I paid \$26 a month for moorage. In 1970 I bought my second houseboat on Portage Bay at the end of Portage Bay Place. I lived there for four-five years. My wife Teri Hall and I bought a houseboat at Lee's Moorings in Fremont in 1990. In 2001 we tore down our houseboat and built a new one on the existing logs.

Houseboats have changed a lot since 1966—starting with sewer connections!! – but it is still a fantastic and uniquely Seattle way to live.

Work-wise, I retired as an administrator from Washington State Department of Social and Health Services 5 years ago and now do part-time project work with the Governor's Office of Financial Management. Teri is a retired social worker and now has her own part time pet care business. We also have several residential rental properties. I enjoy travel, hiking, birding, kayaking, reading, politics and volunteering for environmental causes. We are looking forward to more time for travel, especially eco-travel.

I have always thought that houseboats were a truly unique and vital part of Seattle, and I have enjoyed living in houseboat communities. Volunteering for the Board was a natural way to foster houseboat living in Seattle. Also, I hope I can make a contribution to houseboat environmental issues through my membership on the Board.



## **Jan Carlson, Environmental Committee Chair**

### **The Log foundation, Fairview**

Jan Carlson lived in a 2800 square foot log house on seven acres of wooded property in Port Orchard for 17 years with her husband, Tim, and at various times joined by her daughter, Jennifer, Tim's daughter, Chrissy, and her foster daughter, Jessica. While there, Jan finished a career of thirty five years working as a teacher and counselor in the public schools in the Peninsula School District. After retiring, Jan turned to her passion for art and found watercolor painting. She also found that an empty nest allowed her and Tim to spend much of their time in Seattle. They decided it was time to cut out the 2 ½ hour ferry commute and move. Jennifer invited them to paddle their kayak on Lake Union to see if houseboat living intrigued them. That paddle led them to their floating home in the Log Foundation, and they have never looked back.



Jan likes to say, "The City swirls all around us, inviting us out to adventure, and then we get to come home to this peaceful little oasis. We love the community, the people, the ambiance, the fun, and our 1000 square foot house."

Upon attending her first FHA Annual Meeting, Jan found a way to give back to the community. She volunteered to write for the FHA Newsletter. This led to her service on the Board. She joined in 2003 and now is the Environmental Committee Chair.

## **Sheri Greaves, Trustee and Legislative Committee Chair**

### **Houseboat Harbor, Portage Bay**

Hello, I'm Sheri Greaves. I live on Portage Bay Place East and have been on the Board too long to think about it...since about 1992, or so.

I grew up in a small town in Southeast Missouri, affectionately referred to as the "Bootheel". I went to college at Arkansas State University, and then went to Washington, DC for a few years, where I met my husband, Steve, a Seattle native working in DC at the time. Steve bought the houseboat in Seattle in the late 1970s after having looked at them longingly while he was going to the UW in the 1960s. We moved to Seattle in 1982. I worked for the Seattle Community College District for many years, and then quit to go back and finish my BA degree in Business at the UW. I continued on and received my Masters in Public Administration from the Evans School at the UW, during which time I worked part time as Office Manager for the FHA.

After graduating and getting a full time job, I ran for the Board and have been on it ever since. My main interests are in legislative and urban affairs, so I quickly became involved in the effort to get a new DNR lease, and went on to become Chair of the FHA Legislative Committee. Since 1992 I have been working in various positions at the Hutch, starting out in Development and Community Relations, doing a 5 year stint during the implementation of the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and returning to the Hutch in the Public Health Sciences Division doing grant administration.

My husband races limited hydroplanes, and is a classic wooden boat fanatic, so we do a LOT of boating. We have two wonderful cats that we are crazy about, and I love to read.

I think the Floating Homes Association continues to make a difference in the lives of everyone in our community, and I look forward to more years working for you on the Board.



## **Emily Hine, Trustee**

### **Westlake Cove, Westlake**

Emily Hine is a native “Seattle-ite” who spent too many years in Catholic School which made her both rebellious and a do-gooder; the perfect combination for an FHA Board member. She joined the board in 2000 after rebelliously speaking up at an Annual Meeting & getting coaxed into turning her “energy” into a positive by joining the Board. Her main “do-gooder” role with the FHA is to keep people from being bored at the annual meetings by making fun PowerPoint presentations & keeping the speakers from rambling on too long!



Emily first visited the Floating Homes Community in 1992 at the invitation of her friend, Jan Knutson. She was enamored with the light and easy lifestyle and the energy around the lake and the people who chose to live there. It was just unconventional enough for her taste & six years later when she was looking to buy her first home, it didn't take long to know this was it! Emily has been living at Westlake Cove since 1998 and thoroughly enjoys her two story houseboat near Fremont overlooking the canal – she especially enjoys the summer months when the colors of the sunset illuminate the Fremont & Aurora bridges.

In her professional life as a do-gooder, Emily has spent 17 years helping nonprofit organizations raise money and helping for-profit organizations give away money. Somewhere in the middle she manages to make \$\$ for herself (we don't ask how). She has been president of HineSight Consulting for five years now. When not working to make the world a better place, she enjoys beach volleyball, salsa dancing and participating in any water sports & athletic adventures.

## **Giff Jones, Trustee and Co-Chair Fire and Safety Committee/Houseboatique**

### **Mallard Cove, Fairview**

After receiving a BS in Economics from UCLA and serving a stint with the Army, Giff flew as a bush pilot in Equatorial Africa, living in the ex-Belgian Congo. He later put in 30 years as an airline pilot before retiring in 1991. Or, at least he intended to retire. After moving to Mallard Cove, he's felt busier than in any prior career, but he also feels gratified being able to give back to the community. He feels strongly that without the power and synergy of volunteerism, we would still be back in the 60s fighting the City and shoreline developers to protect and preserve our lifestyle afloat.



## **Mary Jones, Trustee and Houseboatique**

### **Mallard Cove, Fairview**

I was innocently sitting in the audience of an FHA Annual meeting when Marty reeled us in. That was about 8 years ago. The houseboat community was the greatest opportunity to slide our way. After moving here in 1995, what better way to get involved than to be a member of the Floating Homes Association Board? After I retired from a career in the transportation industry in 2001, I found myself fitting more and more into the Eastlake

neighborhood. My husband and I are avid outdoor enthusiasts; sailed to Alaska in 2001 on our 38 foot Nauticat. Hiking with our Tenderfoot group on Fridays into the Cascades, biking and an occasional backpack trip helps to keep our age a minor detail. Neighborhood projects such as our beautifully tiled Lynn St. Park and the Eastlake P-Patch which I co-administer with Barbara Donnette are some of the projects that nurture my soul.

You may also see me flitting about the neighborhood on my Vespa, that is unless my husband has absconded with it. I love living in this community for its eclectic group of folks and their friendly, easy going nature. It is my great fortune to live in Seattle, one of the most beautiful spots this side of the Cascades.

## **Mark Koenig, Trustee**

### **2420 Co-op, Westlake**

Mark Koenig and his wife, Erin Roche, moved to their floating home in the fall of 1995, a few months after he had completed law school at Seattle University. He spent a number of years practicing law and remodeling the house. After a rise and fall with an internet firm and following the dot.com crash in 2001, the two of them rented out their houseboat and joined the Peace Corps spending two years in the South Pacific island nation of Tonga teaching university level business, computer, and law courses, followed by a long and enjoyable 10 month trip home via Australia, Southeast Asia, India, and Europe. If anyone is up for the 8,100 photo slide show, Mark & Erin are always looking for an audience. This is Mark's second time on the FHA board, having resigned before leaving for Tonga in 2002.



## **Tiff McNamara, Trustee and Co-Chair Fire and Safety Committee**

### **The Lake Union, Fairview**

I was brought home from the hospital in June 1969 to a houseboat at 2031 Fairview Avenue East, which is the very dock I live on now. The first three years were spent in two houseboats on four different docks on Fairview. In 1972 we moved to the north shore of Lake Washington and finally in 1973 settled on Queen Anne Hill where my family still lives. As a kid I remember going to the infamous Bastille Day Pig Roast on the 2025 Fairview dock many times. I rowed in high school and at the University of Washington. In February 1999 I purchased my very own houseboat where I still live and currently am remodeling it. We are a houseboating family as my sister Teagen bought a houseboat of her own in 2003.

At 18 I got my private pilots license at Boeing Field. Working my way through the civilian side of aviation I had the good fortune of flying for Boeing as a corporate pilot starting in December of 1996. The highlight was test flying the Boeing 737. In March 2001 I was hired at Continental Airlines as a MD-80 First Officer based out of Houston.

9/11 altered my career path by laying me off for over three years. I returned to Continental in March of 2005 as a B757 and B767 First Officer based out of Newark, NJ flying primarily international routes. No matter what wonderful destinations I have the privilege of visiting there is truly no place like home.



My husband Brad McNamara and I met through a blind date set up by a houseboat neighbor. We love to travel and scuba dive. On occasion we go for a joy ride in our little airplane that is kept at Boeing Field. Once the houseboat remodel is done I intend to get back to my love of growing orchids and gardening. Someday we hope to have a little sailboat and float around the lake. I joined the FHA Board a number of years ago on a temporary basis and have been a part of it ever since. It kept me out of trouble while I was laid off from flying. I am happy to do whatever needs to be done but most of my tasks involve safety and security. I started the houseboat community Dock Watch email communication.

**Laurel Doody, Trustee  
Fairview Moorings, Fairview**

Laurel has been serving on the FHA board for the past three years. She, husband, Pat, and 2 daughters moved to their houseboat 9 years ago. Both girls have gone off to college and “workland” but love returning to bob along in the water. Laurel retired 2 years ago from working in education for the past 30 years. She was a teacher and curriculum developer for Seattle Public Schools and Director of Admissions for The Northwest School. This past year she started a business of rehabbing urban homes. She puts on her steel toed boots, tool belt and loves working in her new profession.



**Marilyn Robertson, Trustee and Communications Committee Chair / Newsletter Editor  
Portage Bay**

I grew up in Burnaby and Vancouver, British Columbia. I was the girl who rode a bike to school with a basket of books hanging from the handlebars. I was a nerd who loved...skiing. I wanted to study History and English literature at university but my parents asked, what kind of a job could you get with those subjects? In those days, choices available to women were secretarial training, teaching or nursing. So, I went to nursing school in Vancouver. Following a year of travel, I settled down, got an undergraduate degree at U of W, then a Masters in Nursing and Anthropology. I worked several years at University Hospital as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Obstetrics. Then, as Professor of Nursing, I taught at Seattle University. In the late 1980s, as a new bride, my husband and I traveled for a year in South America and Europe. I have varying interests: skiing, skating, riding, painting, gardening, studying Spanish, writing and reading.



I've been writing on the newsletter for several years. I wanted to know more about the houseboat community, so I joined the FHA Board in March 2005. I am interested in the history of the houseboat community. And I find it exciting to be part of making history and in preserving and protecting our unique life style.

I wouldn't be living on a houseboat if I hadn't met Jim. I met James Weyand while I was working in labor and delivery at the University Hospital and he was a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology. We lost touch for several years while he was in Germany with the US Army. When we bumped into each other in

1980, he was working at Group Health, divorced and living on a houseboat. He invited me to go sailing and have dinner. Well, I knew something about houseboats having grown up in Vancouver. When I was very little my father pointed out houseboats near Stanley Park. They were occupied by squatters. Dr. Jim's houseboat was old, built around 1918. It was charming and cozy, not the least like a squatter's shack.

In May 1984 Dr. Jim and I were married on the houseboat. That day we made a commitment to each other and our families that we would love, honor, and cherish each other. And, we silently made our commitment to houseboat life.

**Amalia Walton, Trustee  
Flo Villa, Fairview**

Amalia has been a member of the Floating Homes Association since May of 2003, when she was recruited through a brief stint on the Parking and Safety Committee. She lived in the Eastlake houseboat community for the first five years of her life, where she was lucky enough to meet many members of her “fictive family” and developed a lifelong love of the water and all things floating. In 2000, Amalia returned from college in Boston and moved back into her childhood home on Flo Villa. She and her husband, Chris, are looking forward to raising their growing family on the lake. Amalia is also a member of the Eastlake Community Council Land Use Committee.



**Jann McFarland, Office Manager and Assistant Newsletter Editor  
Log Foundation, Fairview**

Jann grew up in Seattle and has a degree in Anthropology and Philosophy from the UW. She worked at a variety of jobs over the years including Lab Tech positions in Psychology at Williams College, and High Energy Physics at LSU in Baton Rouge. In the business world she was an officer in the Trust Dept of a bank, and a Pension Plan Consultant for an actuarial firm. Interests include gardening, bluegrass and banda music, cooking and eating out, traveling, and reading trashy novels on vacation.



Jann has lived on the Lake since 1972 shortly after she moved back to Seattle from a past life in Louisiana. She was a “hippy” in the free spirit sense (and still is) and immediately felt at home in the houseboat community. The first houseboat she lived in was a rental, and Terry Pettus, one of FHA's founding fathers, was her next door neighbor. He nominated her to the Board at an Annual Meeting back in the “Dark Ages”. In the 1980s when the FHA needed to raise money to save the houseboats, she co-chaired many of the tours and auctions, and also co-authored the first FHA cookbook. She served off and on as a Board member until 2000 when she became Office Manager. She met her husband, Sid in 1977 and he is a floating homes contractor. They have 3 totally spoiled “kitty children”, Blue Max, Sundance, and Beau-Bob. Even after all these years here, she is grateful to be living in the houseboat community and still is in awe of Lake Union's beautiful setting and the diversity of the people who live here. It is important to her to help protect the houseboat community and its Lake environment.



Photo by Tim Ahlers

**Tour chairman, Melissa Ahlers on Tour 'hot line'.**

# Tour 2006 !

**WOW!  
Houseboat Tour 2006  
An Incredible Success!**

**By Melissa Ahlers, FHA Fundraising  
Chair**

What a fantastic day we had at this year's Houseboat Tour! This really was an amazing day from beginning to end: from our phenomenal planning committee, to generous neighbors offering their distinctive houseboats for the tour, to the sunny weather that graced our day. It gave us all a wonderful opportunity to meet other houseboaters, share stories and renew our appreciation for life on the water. Thanks to each and every one of our volunteers who made this day so

**Visitors coming and going from Sleepless in Seattle.**

Photo by Rick Miner







Photo by Rick Miner

**Rune and Susan Carlson with their dog.**

special. We couldn't have done it without your enthusiasm and commitment and I appreciate your willingness to give of your time and for your support of this community.

The tour consisted of 15 houseboats all showing the variety of unique ways to live on the water. We heard a number of wonderful comments about the beautiful floating homes and the cool electric boats used for transportation from east to west Lake Union.

Photo by Mariyn Robertson



**Sheri Boddy (l) and Ann Magnano volunteer on 2770 dock.**

**Michele Finnegan, FHA Secretary, works the Housboatique booth with Giff Jones, another board member.**



Photo by Tim Ahlers

**Electric boat takes visitors to Westlake houseboats. View from Pettus Park.**



Photo by Tim Ahlers

**Melissa, her mom, her mother-in-law, and friends. She says, "The houseboat tour is a family affair for us!"**

Photo by Mariyn Robertson





Photo by Tim Ahlers

Waiting to get onto Old Boat House dock.

And the perfect weather really topped off the day. Due to overwhelming demand, we sold over 1500 tickets! Our sponsors were extremely generous in helping us achieve our goals this year — not only were they supportive financially but many volunteered that day as well. Please thank them and support their businesses — we are so lucky to have such wonderful community cooperation.

The success of the tour was due to the hard work of the committee members who helped orchestrate the event: Jann McFarland, Peggy Hanel, Laurel Doody, Marty Greer, Val Burgess, Linda Valentine, Giff and Mary Jones, Teagen Densmore, Michele Finnegan, and Christy Robinson. Special thanks goes to Pat Doody and Wong Doody Advertising for creating our marketing materials and designing the ticket.



Photo by Mariyn Robertson

Heading out in electric boat to Westlake houseboats.

Ladies from Tacoma wait for their afternoon jolt of espresso!

Photo by Mariyn Robertson





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Photo by Mariyn Robertson

Volunteer co-ordinator Val Burgess and Board member Mary Jones take a well earned latte break.

Also, thanks to Sandi McQuirk for heading up ticket sales and Mary and Giff Jones for staffing the houseboatique.

Again, please take the opportunity to thank and support our sponsors. We couldn't have done it without them! And thanks again for being such wonderful neighbors — you make this the best place in the world to love, live and play.

*Please visit*

[seattlefloatinghomes.org/albums/Tour2006/Tour2006.asp](http://seattlefloatinghomes.org/albums/Tour2006/Tour2006.asp)

These photos of the Tour and more are available In Color online at our website.

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# Lake Union & Portage Bay History Project Update

(October 2006)

By Holly Taylor

The history of Lake Union has become a hot topic, with the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) contemplating a move to South Lake Union Park. MOHAI historian Lorraine McConaghy has begun assembling a collection of archival documents related to Lake Union history, such as newspaper advertisements for lakeside manufacturing businesses and historic photos from MOHAI's extensive collection.

McConaghy and Dick Wagner of Center for Wooden Boats

(CWB) led a walking tour around the circumference of Lake Union over the summer, highlighting maritime and labor history, the houseboat community, public waterways and the neighborhoods that line the lake's shore.

Also over the summer, project director Holly Taylor and sound engineer Scott Barlett of Jack Straw Productions conducted a lively oral history interview with Dick Wagner, covering Dick's background and mentors, CWB's history, and the souls of wooden boats, all while sailing around Lake Union in a Blanchard Jr. Knockabout.

On a related note, CWB also recently debuted a new Walking Tour Guide for South Lake Union which includes historical information about many of the National Register-listed vessels that are home ported at the lake. Pick up a printed copy at the Boathouse or download it for free (prints on 11x17 page) [http://www.cwb.org/2006\\_CWB\\_WalkingMap1.pdf](http://www.cwb.org/2006_CWB_WalkingMap1.pdf)

A Lake Union & Portage Bay History Project web page is in the works, which will be hosted on Jack Straw Production's web site. Thanks to the many Floating Homes Association members who have recommended interview narrators and who have offered access to personal archives – follow up has been slow, but things are moving along now that the rains have come. 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](mailto:holly@pastforwardnw.com) or 206.463.3168 with suggestions, questions, or contributions.

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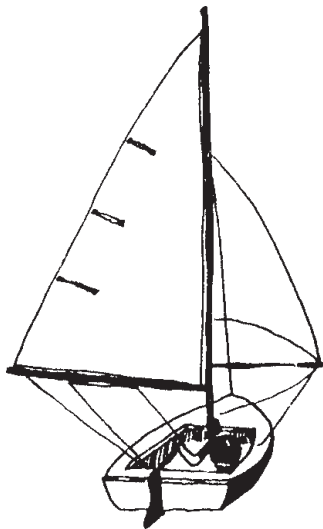
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Photo by Holly Taylor

Sound engineer Scott Barlett of Jack Straw Productions records a lively oral history interview with Dick Wagner.



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# Eastlake

# Eastlake

## Eastlake Community Council Report

By Chris Leman, ECC Secretary

ECC held its annual elections, and is pleased that houseboaters Melissa and Tim Ahlers agreed to continue in their shared board position. Melissa organized the successful October ballot measures forum, which was jointly sponsored with FHA. Tim is revamping the ECC web site and working on our membership data base.

**Nov.14 meeting on crime prevention.** Inspired by the dock watch network coordinated for FHA by Tiffany McNamara and Giff Jones, ECC is expanding its crime prevention efforts. Our public meeting on Tues., Nov. 14 (7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.) will feature a Police Dept. representative, information-sharing among neighbors on

recent incidents, and coaching on how to set up a block watch. Please come!

**SR-520.** Public officials are still debating what to do about SR520, and it is not too late to send them your suggestions. Local controversy has arisen over an effort to move traffic out of Montlake into Union Bay and other neighborhoods, by the use of the Pacific Street Interchange (which should more accurately be called the Marsh Island and Union Bay Interchange). ECC has taken a position firmly against the \$4.38 billion interchange alternative, and in favor of rebuilding the SR520 bridge as four lanes. Because the lanes and shoulders would be wider, a new four-lane bridge would accommodate more traffic than the current one, but not flood I-5 with traffic there is no room for. Thanks go to Mayor Nickels for standing up for the four-lane alternative. Whatever your views, please send them to the Mayor, City Council, Governor, and state legislators. The addresses for all of them are available on the League of Women Voters' web site at [www.seattlelwv.org/pubs/TRY\\_2006.pdf](http://www.seattlelwv.org/pubs/TRY_2006.pdf).

**Parks stewardship.** The parks of our neighborhood thrive only with the care of volunteers. If there's a park that needs love, we can connect you with its stewardship group, or help you set up one. Generally at work parties, we provide tools, but you bring gloves, and clothes and shoes that can get dirty.

A new stewardship group has emerged for **Colonnade** — our biggest park, and a great place in the winter because I-5 provides shelter from the rain! The next work party is Saturday, Dec. 4; come anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the northwest corner of the park (just below Lakeview Blvd., between Newton and Howe streets). Stewardship leader is Dan Kelley-Petersen, manager of the Eastlake Starbucks (so you can assume that the coffee and pastries will be first rate! A particu-

lar focus is to spread mulch on weeded areas and to save trees from the smothering ivy and clematis. Coordinated with the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. For questions or to be added to the notification list: [kellersen@comcast.net](mailto:kellersen@comcast.net) or 318-7050 ext. 303448.

The next work party at the Lake Union southeast shoreline restoration project is Sun., Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 2. Meet at 1609 Fairview Ave. E. Questions: [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net) or 322-5463. Coordinated by the Eastlake Community Council in cooperation with Seattle Public Utilities. And let us know if your company or school could help on a different date.

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NOVEMBER 3, 1923 TO JULY 11, 2006

Lynn was born in Vancouver, BC Canada. After moving to the US, she proudly kept her Canadian citizenship, but held strong feelings about the US and World governments. She frequently advised her friends and neighbors on just how to vote.

Lynn had an interest in the arts since her teens, but did not begin her oil painting until she was in her forties. Her family encouraged her to show her work, but she said that every painting was a learning experience.

Lynn and her husband, John moved to their houseboat on Roanoke Reef twenty two years ago in February of 1984 when the moorage was first being developed and built. After a short illness, Lynn died on her beloved houseboat with her husband and other family members present.

In recognition of her interest in the arts and what, for her, was self-education, neighbors, and friends beyond Roanoke Reef have created the Lynn Goodlad Endowed Scholarship Fund at Cornish College of the Arts. The recipient will be a fine arts student selected by the school and John Goodlad will participate in presenting the award. If you wish to donate to the scholarship fund, you can write a check to Jane Ewing, VP for Institutional Advancement, Cornish College of the arts, 1000 Lenora Street, Seattle, WA 98121. You can also donate through the school's secure web site [www.cornish.edu/advancement/yourgift.htm](http://www.cornish.edu/advancement/yourgift.htm) All gifts are tax deductible.

Compiled by John Goodlad, Joan & Jack Leversee



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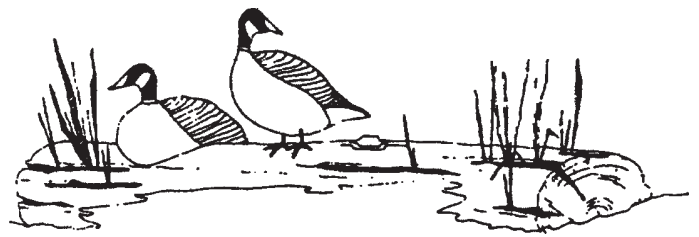
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# Waterlog

By Marilyn Robertson



## Fall 2006

On Sunday, September 10, I had a chance to join in on the excitement of the 2006 Houseboat Tour. I was snapping pictures for several hours along Westlake and Fairview. Look for photos of volunteers in this *Newsletter* and check the **Houseboat Tour 2006** page on the FHA web site.

I just got word of “Moos sighted at a north Lake Union habitat after 20-year absence!” Hop in your kayak and we’ll find out what this is all about.

Wildlife Returns to Lee’s Moorings!

Seattle, October 2006 – Dock dwellers at [Lee’s Moorings](#) have noticed recently that a pair of wild Moos has taken up residence in their neighborhood.

After 20 years as land-lubbers in Kirkland, longtime floating home owner, **Jerry Moos**, and his wife, **Terry**, have returned to north Lake Union, where they recently remodeled and expanded their floating home at 933 N. Northlake – just in time to enjoy the great fall sunshine. The first casualty of the move was their 15-year old cat, Beano, who took a ‘leap of faith’ from one roof to another and fell 16 feet down into the water. Miraculously, kitty is just fine, but she has since been renamed ‘Evel Cat-niel.’ The house is a work-in-progress, but it’s almost ready for prime time. Jerry & Terry want to thank their many terrific neighbors for their infinite patience with the construction noise and clutter these past months.

Well, now we have Moos in residence, we’ll have to keep track of them! While we’re here, let’s paddle over to the east end of **PORTAGE BAY** and see who we run into. As a follow up to a report in our last issue, **Mardi Newman** of [2818 1/2 Boyer Ave E.](#) was involved in an auction in mid September. The auction, hosted by Seattle Metropolitan Magazine and Nordstrom, raised more than \$20,000 for *On the Boards*. The department store became Club Nordys for one evening. Each of the 11 people being auctioned had to offer a selection of services and gifts to the lucky bidder. A date came with the package, but the winners could opt for only the package of gifts. Houseboater, Mardi Newman, a professional auctioneer, worked her magic to get higher and higher bids. She was also one of the women being auctioned! Her package included a South African safari. Clever Mardi managed to get the highest bid of the evening. \$4,750!

At our next stop let’s talk with my neighbor **Katherine Hanson** who spent several weeks this summer in Peru. From their floating home at sea level, **Katherine** and her husband, **Michael Schick** travelled to the Peruvian highlands and Islas Flotantes, islands that float 3820 meters above sea level on Lake Titicaca. These floating islands, constructed from reeds and sod, are home to the Uros people whose floating exist-

ence dates back centuries. The only way to get there is by boat; from the port city of Puno it’s a slow, 45 minute ride across a large lagoon, thick with reeds (which, incidentally, the natives use to supplement their diet—the taste isn’t bad!—as well as to build their islands, homes and boats).

Though friendly and hospitable, the Uros do not accept overnight visitors, so Michael and Katherine got back into the motorboat and headed out into Lake Titicaca proper, to Isla Amantani. When the boat docked, their hostess for the night, Else, was there to greet them. Wearing her traditional costume and a warm smile, Else led her guests up a steep

path that, to the visitors used to sea level, seemed to go on forever! The homes on Isla Amantani are built of mud brick, most do not have electricity or indoor plumbing, and meals are prepared over a wood fire in a ‘kitchen’ that has a thatched roof, but no chimney. Lunch and dinner featured very tasty and filling soups and pancakes were served for breakfast.

After the evening meal, the family ushered Michael



Photo by Michael Schick

## Reedhouse at Lake Titicaca.

and Katherine to their room, dressed them in traditional costume, and took them to the schoolhouse for an evening of music and dancing. At 10 o’clock Else led her guests, out of breath and a bit dizzy, back up the path. A full moon illuminated the landscape and the lake below; the flashlights left behind in the houseboat on Portage Bay were not missed at all.

We pause to say hi to **John Pursell**, on Fuhrman Avenue. (Check out his story and poem that accompany this column).

Still heading west we stop at **Myrna Cordova’s**. She tells us the latest news from [Houseboat Harbor Inc.](#) Members voiced their hearty “Congratulations and Best Wishes” when **Cliff Soike** announced his recent marriage to **Lori Jacobson**. The happy couple enjoyed honeymooning in Mexico. HHI members were also proud of Cliff when he showed great skill with his baseball bat at a game in the parking lot! Myrna



enjoyed visiting her sister and **Ethel Scribner** while vacationing in Wash. D.C. Along with seeing many of the capital's monuments and attractions, she highly recommends the beautiful Potomac Gorge and its C&O canals.

**Sheri Greaves** catches us just before we paddle off. Her husband, **Steve Greaves** (3110 PBPE) has raced limited hydroplanes and runabouts for over 40 years, so he and Sheri, spend a lot of their summer off in beautiful, tropical locations like Connell, Moses Lake, Brewster, and a few weekends in Oregon...They also spent a week near Peoria, Illinois in mid-summer (99° and 99% humidity). All of this pays off, though, as Steve has won nine National Championships and 30 National and World records. He has been inducted into the APBA Hall of Champions seven times and into the prestigious APBA Honor Squadron in 2003. Next January, Steve and Sheri will go to Los Angeles to the APBA Annual meeting to receive yet another induction into the Hall of Champions. Steve makes up to Sheri for all of these weekends with an annual "real" vacation in Hawaii or Mexico.

Under the University Bridge and back into **LAKE UNION**, we make a quick stop at the independent state of Tui Tui. **Robbie Rudine** Is just back from Brazil. "I just moved my Dad to Brazil where my sister and mother live." Robbie's dad just celebrated his 90th birthday.

Moving on down Lake Union we kayak towards Mallard Cove where there has been lots of activity.

**Giff Jones** shares, what he calls Mallard Cove Cluckings: HB #1: **Jim Caputo** and **Angie Weber** made it official in August. They flew off to Europe with some dock neighbors and got married. HB #2: **Andy** and **Heidi Leonard** have put their houseboat up for sale after the birth of their new daughter, **Megan Elizabeth**. HB#6: **Bob** and **Lisa Berman's** son Eli got married this summer. They threw a big shindig for 100 friends and relatives (many from out-of-state) at their ranch east of the mountains. HB #9: Our Edgar street resident beaver cut down one half of **Susan Lehr's** favorite long-time Japanese maple. Husband **Mike Greenleaf** wire-wrapped the remaining half. Next night the beaver stood on hind legs, reached up to maximum gnawing height above the wire and finished the job! HB #14: New owners **Paul** and **Linda Ellingson** got right into the community spirit: They offered their home for the dock's Annual Meeting in October then Linda got elected to serve on the board. HB #15: Speaking of community, **Tim** and **Melissa Ahlers** stood for re-election to the ECC board while Melissa still wore her crown as 2006 Floating Homes "Tour Goddess". HB #18: Speaking of community again, **Peggy Hanel** helped make the 2006 Floating Homes Tour a financially smashing success by getting all costs underwritten by neighborhood and business donations. Go Peggy!

At Tenas Chuck we learn that Jan **Knutson** wrote from Alaska to say:

"We love Alaska and our new jobs! I'm the new Development Director for Catholic Social Services, in Anchorage, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. And, my husband **Ed Hutchinson** is the new VP of Community Impact at

**John Pursell** writes:

My neighbor, **Betsie**, has two marvellous male cats. Mixie and Jiggie, which I feed when she is off on business trips. (The perceptive reader will realize that when associated with cats, the word 'feed' includes other responsibilities.) Last autumn, Betsie had the bathroom of her houseboat remodelled.

"When the carpenter removed the pedestal that holds the sink," Betsie told me, "he discovered 23 mice."

"23 dead mice behind the sink!" I stammered.

Oh, no," she laughed. "Little toy woollen mice, here," she showed me a bowl of two-inch mice. "Sometimes when I'm off on a trip, I get a woollen mouse and bring it home for the cats. Then strangely, two days later, it has disappeared.

"Sometimes I've seen Mixie sniffing around the sink pedestal but I thought nothing of it—but what he's been doing is hoarding the mice so Jiggie couldn't have any."

Perhaps Mixie's aspirations were far greater than any of us suspected:

Tomcat, dreaming on the lawn,  
'tis romance that you dwell upon?  
Do you perform some mental feat  
To awe the female down the street?  
Do you present her with the owl  
You'll catch upon this evening's prow?  
Or do you fancy to entice  
Her favor with a dozen mice?

While other foolish toms may sit  
Upon the fence and howl a bit,  
You'll be indelicately pally  
With salmon heads along an alley...

But when her moment comes to chose,  
Do not conclude that you must lose...

Males, men or cats, may be alluring  
But moonlight love is not enduring...

Though love's preferred to any dish,  
Wise girls choose owls and mice and fish.

### Epilogue

But even unwise girls discern,  
A lesson you seem yet to learn:  
Relationships must always deal  
With presentations that are real.  
While yours, while growing fast in size,  
Is known for pulling over eyes.

Your acquisition's large but fake,  
No substitute for rodent steak:  
The treasure you are hoarding now,  
Is great for dress but not for chow,  
For weaving into socks and mittens,  
And coats – but never into kittens...

So you may find, to your surprise,  
Discretion in those girls unwise,  
Though long ago were wined and wooled,  
Submit no more to being pulled...  
'til then away you'll likely slink,  
To sulk behind the bathroom sink,  
And wait until you're not alone,  
Then catch a creature on your own.

Perhaps with time your learning how  
Will yield a positive Meow...

United Way of Anchorage, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We arrived in Anchorage July 27, in time to move into our new home near downtown Anchorage. We have two guest bedrooms. So, we welcome guests who are traveling to Alaska. We live in a townhouse in a wooded cul de sac 7 minutes from downtown. Moose – Mama and her young one — often visit our yard - eating the tree leaves and garden flowers. **Bob Lilly** would be pleased to see the moose but appalled that they are eating the garden flowers! In August, we went up to Denali National Park. When we were there – Mount McKinley (20,320 ft) or Denali, “The High One” came out in all its glory. We chartered a small airplane and flew around Denali. It was awesome, breathtaking, and glorious! We’ll be “home” in Seattle over the Thanksgiving week, so hope to see friends and fellow house boaters then. Still more news from Tenas Chuck, **Jeri Callahan** reports “our latest Jazz on the Dock, (which was actually in our parking area; with so many little kids it works better than the wide space on 2331.) The wonderful music was courtesy of John Alberts on the keyboard. It was great fun to watch our eight kids all less than 5 years old dancing to the music!

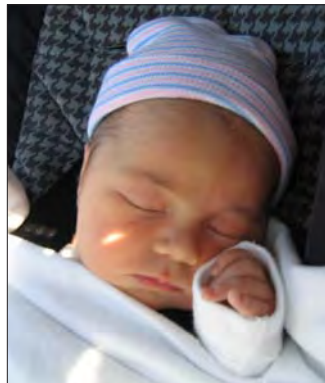


Photo from Amalia Walton

**Flo Villa's newest resident: Lilian Rose Gregorich.**

At Flo Villa **Amalia Walton** and **Chris Gregorich** announce the birth of **Lilian Rose Gregorich** who arrived on Sunday September 3 at 4:39 p.m. Lilian weighed in at 8 pounds 1 ounce, and measured 20 & 3/4 inches. “Our little one was home just in time to enjoy watching her first Duck Dodge!”

Up Date: Lilian has kept busy sitting in on FHA board meetings and attending a wonderful welcome party hosted by **Sharon Ranney** and enjoyed by fellow Flo Villa houseboaters.

The Lake Union Tiff McNamara reports **LeAnne Quinn** would like to express a flat out THANK YOU! for the Fire Department’s great job during the NOAA fire. **Steve** and **Jan Scheibe** have been going to their cabin in Idaho at least once a month. **Ann Prezyna** spent several weeks in Buffalo, NY moving her father to a retirement home and selling the house she grew up in. **Gordon Lewis** took a break in early October from the ranch he owns with his wife Ann Prezyna in Palomas, AZ. For the past three years Gordon has been working on indigenous wildlife restoration. The current project at “Rancho Gulag” is preparing for the relocation of one hundred burrowing owls displaced by development.

**Jann McFarland** from the Log Foundation shares a

## ...Waterlog

couple of stories from the tour, “The article on houseboats that appeared in Sunset magazine expanded the geographical distribution of our September houseboat tour attendees this

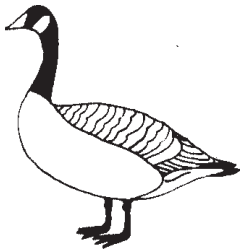


Photo: Marilyn Robertson

**Otis Pimpleton and his staff served BBQ during the Tour afternoon.**

year. We had at least 1 visitor from Vancouver, BC, people from Bellingham, Bremerton, Gig Harbor, Port Angeles, Tri Cities, and Portland. One Oregon couple live in a houseboat on the Willamette River. **Sid (McFarland)** invited them down to our houseboat where we compared notes on our communities and they showed us photos of their huge floating home that sits all by itself along the river bank. They were just as interested in our long docks with so many houses on them. Overheard at the tour. Just as the tour was winding down and we were all exhausted and trying to clean up, Otis Pimpleton, who had the BBQ wagon for the event, remarked that it would sure be great if we had the tour every year. We laughed and informed him that this was not the time for thinking about having a tour in even two years much less in one year! “

One hot and sunny day in August, **Mark Sanderson & Jamie Thurner** (2019) and **Debbie Woodbury & Ren Nansted** (2025) were floating in the channel in inflatable inner tubes and chairs (with drink holders), when Ren got the bright idea to make a big batch of margaritas and set the container next to the edge of their raft. Instant swim-up or



float-by bar! Jann & Sid McFarland, who had to leave to go elsewhere were very envious, but took notes and pictures to document the fun.

On a more serious note: The Log Foundation lost its most senior member at the end of summer when Hazel Nigh, who celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in August, passed away. Look for a tribute to her in the next issue of the newsletter.



Photo by Sid McFarland

Houseboaters enjoy margaritas at Ren Nansted's float up/swim up bar. From Left are Jamie Thurner, Debbie Woodbury, Mark Sanderson and Ren.

Over on 2466 Westlake **Marty Greer** tells of a major dock problem that occurred before the Tour. Less than 24 hours before 1500 people would be walking down our dock for the Houseboat Tour, our sewer stopped working – it was a mess! **James Hicks** from Aqua Dive was summoned, and he and long-time dock resident/guru **Nortie Fauchald** were called on to deal with the problem. Because most parts and materials stores were closed, they had to make do with what was on hand to fix the system. As it turned out, they replaced the pump (Nortie had a spare, of course) and several main pipe connections as well as repaired the electrical system. With six hours of lifting, bending, pulling ... and a bit of head-scratching, these two demonstrated what a dock resident with a career in construction management

called, “unmatched planning, skill and preparedness.” I’m sure all those who attended the tour had no idea how much effort it sometimes takes to maintain systems that land-dwellers never give a second thought. So much goes on below the dock to keep our community floating high and smelling sweet!

Thanks to all who reported on the latest news from Portage Bay and Lake Union. Keep the news coming. Send to Marilyn—  
isobel.rob@earthlink.net



photo by Marty Greer

Nortie Fauchald and James Hicks, Aqua Dive, repair sewer at 2466 Westlake just hours before Tour begins!



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