



The Sycamore Islander

May 2009

Volume 88 No 5

President's Letter, May 2009

I was out of town for the last two weeks of April, so this will be a somewhat abbreviated letter.

Despite the construction, the Club had a very productive workfest. The weather was terrific, and the participants were enthusiastic. The bluebells were still in bloom, but so was the garlic mustard, which is an invasive. A few of us went after the garlic mustard. I hope we made a dent; they are all over the Island. Thanks to Joe, John Malusky (for another great barbeque), Tryon Wells, David Winer, Jim Drew, Tove Elfstrom, and everyone else who turned out to help.

The weather wasn't quite as good for the spring wildflower walk, but that did not deter RG Steinam and John Parrish from taking club members on a fantastic walk. RG and John are extraordinarily knowledgeable about the flora in the Potomac River basin and enjoy sharing their knowledge. We appreciate their efforts. If you haven't been on one of their wildflower walks, you are missing a real treat.

We were one member short of a quorum for the April meeting. Rather than drafting formal minutes, Bill Marmon prepared a short summary of the matters discussed. I want to thank Lauren Brandt for making her home available, especially when she didn't realize (as a result of my mistake) that she was hosting the meeting.

Construction Update: We are making progress, albeit at a slow pace. I am giving up making predictions about when the construction will be finished, but it will happen. One of Joe's daughters moved back to the Island. She says that when the construction is finished, the place will be "awesome." I feel badly that Joe has had to live in a construction site for this long, but he's been a real trooper about it.

The Sycamore Islander is a monthly newsletter of the Montgomery Sycamore Island Club. Any materials of interest to the membership and waiting list are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Amanda Cannell, as email attachments to ahcannell@gmail.com

The deadline for the June issue is Wednesday, May 27th.

Reminders about Upcoming Events.

Canoe Class: The annual canoe instructional class taught by Frank Daspit is scheduled for **Saturday, May 16, 2009** at 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Potomac Downriver Race: The Canoe Cruisers Association (CCA) will be holding their annual downriver race on Saturday, **May 23, 2009**. Sycamore Island is the finish line. Further information and entry forms are on the CCA website. They also are looking for volunteers to help out with the race.

Kayak Class: For the first time in recent memory, the Club will be offering a kayak instruction class taught by Starr Mitchell on **Saturday, June 20, 2009** at 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Clubhouse Warming Party: Coming soon (but how soon, nobody knows). Stay tuned.

May Meeting: The May meeting will be held **on the Island on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 8:00 PM**. Even if the construction is not finished, we should be able to find a large enough space to hold the meeting. If the weather is good, Joe will have a couple of grills fired up. So come out early and bring your dinner before the meeting.

See you at the May meeting on the 13th.

Jeff Komarow
President



Saturday Relief Caretakers- May 2009

Please sign up as soon as possible

Date	Hours	Caretaker	Number
May			
2	9-3	Lynda and David Martin-McCormick	202-363-3863
	3-dark	Penelope Mitchell	301-229-4606
9	9-3	Susan Dunham, Daniel Schember	301-320-9570
	3-dark	Scott , Jasmine Chambers	301-320-7689
16	9-3	Nell Hennessy	202-526-0157
	3-dark	Abigail Porter, David Kay	202-537-1655
23	9-3	Renee, Stephen Marcus	202-363-3849
	3-dark	Matthias , Louise Meyer	202-328-6834
30	9-3	Tom Lott	202-362-8282
	3-dark	Susan Schadler, Leslie Lipschitz	301-656-6403

****** Caretaker Volunteers ******

To volunteer, contact Alison Burns at

Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2009

Meeting was held at the home of Lauren Brandt and Jean-Louis Sarbib.

Attending, but failing to constitute a quorum, were Marianne Ross, Jim Drew, Lauren Brandt, John Noble, Peter Winkler, Jeff Komarow, Mike Colon, Jane Winer, Bill Lucky Marmon.

Because of the absence of quorum the meeting was more social than ordinary with Lauren-supplied beer, tomato juice and mountains of popcorn providing a pleasant assist here. Caretaker Joe Hage was at the meeting and brought up some issues concerning the construction, which Jeff Komarow took under advisement. Joe also reported the need to replace the filtration system for water on the Island. The existing filtration system has become inoperative and Joe has disconnected it, raising a question about the potability of the water on the Island.

Jeff reported that construction, while delayed, was coming to an end and that some but not all of the delays were the responsibility of the Club and not the contractor. Whether the contractor will get his bonus remains to be determined.

There was discussion and some assignments for the upcoming work-fest.

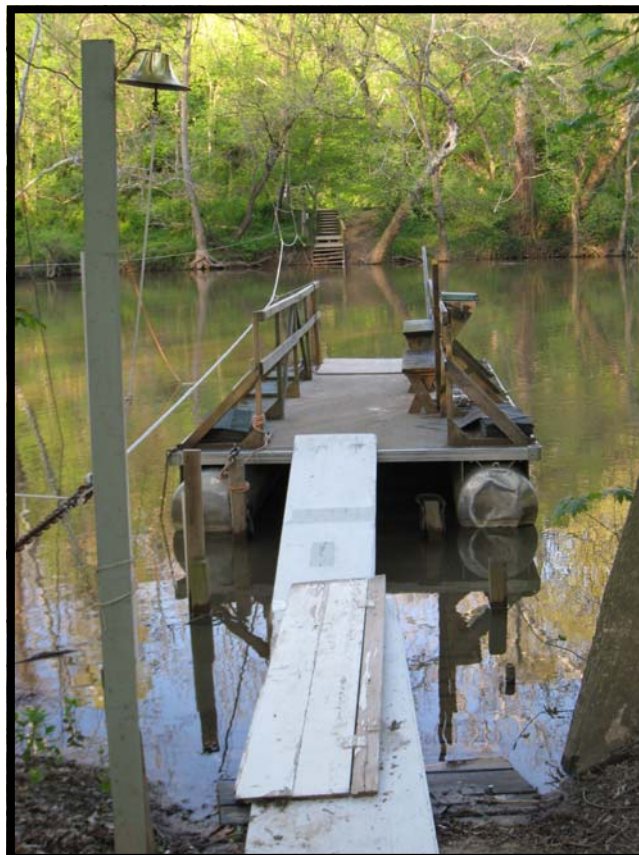
Peter Winker reported that 10 members were still delinquent on their 2009 dues. There was lively discussion about how new membership in the Club would be organized once all the Waiting List Members have become regular members, which event is likely still several years away but could come sooner than originally anticipated.

Joe Hage reported that he had heard from Tabitha Eagle, who made a presentation to the Club last year, that the US Geological Service had approved the naming of a good sized Potomac island upstream from the Club, "Big Sluice Island," as has been requested by Tabitha and supported by several letters from Club members after her presentation.

The meeting ended at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Marmon
Co-recording Secretary

Spring Work Fest







From the Archives compiled by Holly Syrrakos
76 Years Ago at Sycamore Island
From the May 1933 *Sycamore Islander*

It is amazing how the issues and actions of today mirror those of 1933. The *Islander* clamored for payment of dues, reported high water in April, and detailed Clubhouse upgrades—an additional refrigerator, a new sink and the installation of a pump.

The *Islander* also put forth opinions and a ballot on the age-old question:
“*Beer at Sycamore*”

“Beer including a certain percentage of alcohol, which percentage we do not now recall, having been made legal in these United States, the question arose at the April meeting as to whether such beer should be permitted at Sycamore. We already have a rule against intoxicants, but since Congress says that the brew is not intoxicating, the beer would probably have been permissible at the Island had not the Club temporarily passed a rule against it. This rule states that the 3.2 beer is prohibited until further action by the Club and that the Executive Committee is to further consider the matter of permitting beer and present its report at the meeting of Monday night...”

“Practically all of the members at the April meeting were opposed to having beer but, rather than adopt any rule at that time, they preferred to temporarily ban beer and let the entire membership consider the question before taking any final action. We should add that every member who spoke against beer stated that he had no objection to it and in fact liked it; they all simply felt that it would be best to keep it off the Island.

“You Editor quite agrees with the members mentioned above that beer might just as well be omitted from Sycamore. Personally, I like it, but it probably wouldn’t go well at the Island. (Please understand that if I ever run for public office on a dry ticket, the above admission of a liking for 3.2 will be indignantly denounced as a dastardly lie, made out of whole cloth by my brewer-subsidized opponents.)

“Sycamore has done very well on a dry basis ever since 1914 and while beer probably would not cause any trouble so far as practically all of our members are concerned, yet, if we permitted beer, some members might throw “beer parties” and the Island might unjustly obtain an undesirable reputation.”

Sycamore Bulletin Board:

Canoeing Class:

Islander Frank Daspit will again teach his very popular canoeing class this year. The class will be held at Sycamore Island on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 10 to 12 am. All members and wait listers from beginners to more advanced paddlers can attend. Teenagers welcome. There are plenty of club canoes available. No need to RSVP; just come to the Island. For more information, contact canoe supervisor Jim Drew at 202/462-3836.

Kayak Instruction Class:

Taught by Starr Mitchell, Saturday, June 20th, 10-12 AM

Relief Caretakers wanted:

Thanks goes out to the many people who volunteered for relief caretaking. We are currently looking for relief caretakers for weekends in June and July.

Call Alison Burns to volunteer- 202-362-6654

Large Parties: No Large Parties reported

**A large party application form may be printed from the Club's web page at
<http://www.sycamoreisland.org/systems.htm>**

**To request a form through the mail, call the Supervisor of Parties, John Noble
e-mail johnanoble@mac.com phone: 301-448-8562**

This is a new email address for John



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Internet, go to:
<http://www.sycamoreisland.org/boondoggle/islander.htm>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Sycamore Events

May Meeting:

May 13th at 8:00 PM
On the island

May 16, Canoe Class 10-12

June Meeting: June 10th, 8 PM on
the island

June 20, Kayak Class 10-12

