



# The Sycamore Islander

APRIL 2010 | VOLUME 89 NUMBER 4

## Official Business, at Last

Our March meeting at the Irish Channel Pub was the first opportunity to conduct Club business since the Christmas party/meeting in December. Thanks to Nell Hennessy and Frank Daspit we again enjoyed a party atmosphere for the meeting—their pub setting and refreshments added greatly to the gathering. With a solid quorum we eventually got to the business of planning, and set up a couple of important events: the annual spring workfest and the 125th Anniversary & Club Renovation Party. The party will be BIG to celebrate two major milestones and will surely be remembered fondly for years to come. Stay tuned to the Islander for details, and please plan to attend both.

## The Sycamore Island F Word: Flood

We briefly discussed the gigantic snow storms and noted how lucky we had been not to experience



Flood crest on March 15.

STEVE JONES

flooding from fast melting in the Potomac watershed. Of course we didn't know how much snow was still in the hinterlands that caused a relatively minor flood soon after. Then, after that event, the rains came and caused a second, higher, flood. Joe Hage has been a busy caretaker! I am happy to report that Joe's requests for members to help secure the Island were met by lots of willing hands. It was surprising how many managed to show up with only short e-mail notice of the need to volunteer on two different weekdays. There is a lot of Club spirit among us.

Neither of the two floods caused serious damage, but they did leave the Island in considerable disarray, including downed utility lines, piles of inconveniently located flotsam, and mud, mud, mud. Nothing very extraordinary about all this, but it's good to recognize that the resilience in our club culture sets things straight before long.

A lesson learned from the floods is the need to identify the myriad of canoes and kayaks by their rack assignments. I am asking our Canoeing Supervisor, John Membrino, to work up a plan and for the Club to approve.

## April Meeting

Our next meeting is in the clubhouse on Wednesday, April 14 at 8:00 P.M. I suggest coming down early to enjoy the daylight savings time, grill a burger, and engage in some chin-wagging before the meeting.

DAVID WINER  
President

## Minutes for the March 10 Meeting

The March meeting was held at the Irish Channel Pub in Northwest D.C., and hosted by Nell Hennessey and Frank Daspit. More than enough members were present to constitute a quorum. President David Winer convened the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Members Present: Jim Drew, Chuck Pill, Caroline and Alan Gelb, Jeff Komarow, Jane and David Winer, Drew Walsh, Marianne Ross, Frank Daspit and Nell Hennessey, Phoebe Hamill, John and Judy Lentz, and Tryon Wells.

Minutes: The January 9 meeting minutes were approved unanimously, without corrections or amendments.

Captain's report: Tryon Wells reported that no date has been set for procuring lockers for club members. He explained that two sizes are to be ordered in metal—the larger size for those who store lengthy items such as fishing poles and paddles, and the smaller size for other uses such as swimsuit, towel, charcoal, etc.

Old Business: David Winer described in more detail the plans being discussed about eliminating the waiting list once the current one is ended. One proposal is for the club to maintain a list of applicants each year, to select members from the list according to the existing vacancies, and then start a new applicant list each year. The selection process would have two parts: a portion of the vacancies to be determined by the desires of the club, and a portion by random draw.

Treasurer's Report: Alan Gelb reported that there is \$60,000 in reserve.

New Business: Jane Winer and Caroline Gelb desired a budget concerning the 125th anniversary party to be held on the island, May 8. Funds are needed for the contra dance caller, and musicians, for food, for commemorative bandannas, and for a special reptile show suggested by Joe Hage. They offered a motion for the club to authorize a budget for the Anniversary Party and Renovation Celebration for an amount not to exceed \$2,000. The motion was seconded and passed. Joe agreed to play music during dinner. Nell Hennessey suggested that the the Folklore Society may have someone to help with the contra-dance; she also suggested a firm that could print souvenir bandannas.

Caetaker's Report: Joe Hage reported that the Club phone is working again after the last storm, and some tree work has also been completed. He suggested a date



DAVID WINER

March 10 meeting at the Irish Channel Pub.

be set for the Spring Workfest at this evening's meeting. A motion was made to hold the Workfest on Sunday, April 18 (Raindate, April 25). The motion was seconded, vote taken, and motion passed.

Due to high water forecast, the caretaker could use help with moving canoes off lower racks. Several persons volunteered.

Canoeing: Jim Drew suggested setting a date for the Spring canoeing class with Frank Daspit. The date will be Saturday, May 15.

Just before adjournment at 9:15 everyone applauded Nell Hennessey and Frank Daspit for providing the assortment of delicious appetizers prior to and during the meeting. All recognized that they have been very generous in inviting the club to hold several winter meetings at their Irish Channel Pub.

### Upcoming Dates

Sunday, April 11	Wildflower Walk
Sunday, April 18	Workfest (Raindate – April 25)
Saturday, May 8	125th Anniversary Party
Saturday, May 15	Canoeing Class
Saturday, May 22	Downriver Canoe/Kayak Race

JUDY LENTZ  
Acting Recording Secretary

## Canoeing Class

The club will offer canoeing instruction again this spring for members and wait listers thanks to Frank Daspit, who once again has generously volunteered to lead the class. Mark your calendars now—the class will be held at the island May 15 from 10 to noon. Paddlers with all levels of experience are welcome, and club canoes will be available. Frank will go over basic paddling techniques, how to enter a canoe properly, hazards of canoeing at the Island and, time permitting, other topics such as rescue techniques and equipment. This is a great opportunity to learn how to make your river excursions safe and enjoyable. For more information, contact canoe supervisor John Membrino at 301.229.1154.

## Family and Youth Casting Call at Fletcher's Cove, Saturday, April 24

In March and April, the Potomac River swells with the return of migrating Herring, Striped Bass (Rockfish), Hickory Shad and American Shad. Some of these fish now make it up to the waters around the Island following the installation of a fish ladder on the Little Falls (Brookmont) dam in 2000.

These migrating fish make an incredible journey to the Potomac River Gorge to spawn each year. The Striped Bass are ultimately bound for the Chesapeake Bay and will venture up the Atlantic coast to Maine.

The American Shad travel even farther. After spawning in the upper Potomac, they head to the ocean to spend the summer in Canada's Bay of Fundy before returning to the mid-Atlantic in winter. Shad stocks are rebounding as a result of a sustained effort by federal, state and local agencies and non-profit groups to restore historic spawning habitats for these anadromous fish native to the Potomac.

One way to get ready for the upcoming fishing season on the Island is to attend the annual Family and Youth Casting Call sponsored by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and the National Park Service. The event will be held at Fletcher's Cove along the Potomac on Saturday April 24 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The Casting Call provides an opportunity for kids to fish in a stocked section of the C&O Canal with free gear and instruction. Other activities such as fly casting lessons, touch tanks, and information displays on fish and fishing round out this fun event.

More information on the Casting Call can be found at: [www.familyandyouthcastingcall.com](http://www.familyandyouthcastingcall.com)

Information on the American Shad Restoration Project can be found at: [www.potomacriver.org](http://www.potomacriver.org)

PAUL HAGEN

## Important Membership Announcements

The Club is holding an Orientation Session on the Island at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, April 25. All are welcome, but the session is particularly important for waitlisters who have not yet attended one: you cannot become a Member unless at least one member of your household has attended an orientation. The President, the Vice-President, the Captain, the Caretaker, and I will all be present to lead a tour of the Island and explain facilities and procedures. So that we can appropriately plan for refreshments, please RSVP at 202.273.1701 or [peter.winkler@nlrb.gov](mailto:peter.winkler@nlrb.gov).

Our waiting list is getting shorter and we can look ahead to the day when we reopen it to new applicants. In preparation, we are forming a committee to consider revising our rules for selecting members. Do you want the Club to continue taking applicants in order of signup? To select applicants who bring needed skills to the Club? To pick and choose whom we like? Some combination of the foregoing?

The committee's recommendations will likely have a major impact on the future of the Club. If you would like to be a member of the committee, please contact me. (Non-members, of course, will have the opportunity to express their thoughts, and no new rules will be promulgated except by the Club.)

PETER WINKLER  
Membership Secretary

A memorial service will be held for Brad Coolidge at 4 P.M. on Friday, April 23, 2010, at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda. For directions go to: [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org).

# 125th Anniversary Party and Clubhouse Renovation

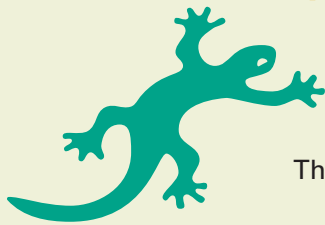
## CELEBRATION

All members and applicants on the Waiting List are invited to the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Sycamore Island Club or,  
**The Birthday Bash!**

We will commemorate this event on May 8, 2010—rain or shine—and, at the same time, we will celebrate the successful renovation of the Clubhouse, an enormous accomplishment.

So please come join us for a party with a champagne (or sparkling cider) toast:

### To Sycamore Island, Past, Present and Future!



Come down to the Island by 1:00–1:30 p.m. as  
The Big Event, **Reptiles Alive!** Begins at 2:00



The afternoon will include games for the entire family, including a challenging Treasure Hunt for kids. After the Potluck Dinner, starting about 7 p.m., we present:

Contra Dancing with Janine Smith and the Sycamore Island Ramblers  
Best Period (1890's) Costume wins a Prize!  
Children and Adults!

For the Barbecue and Potluck Dinner, please prepare and bring a dish:  
A–G Appetizer H–M Salad M–Z Dessert A–Z Dancing Shoes!

rsvp Jane Winer, 301.229.8963 or Caroline Gelb, [cgelb@worldbank.org](mailto:cgelb@worldbank.org)

### This Event Has Been Champagne Approved!



We count on the usual outstanding potluck dish contributions: appetizers, salads and desserts. Pulled-pork barbecue will be featured but there will also be chicken, veggie burgers, and hot-dogs. We need volunteers to bring ice, drinks, cups, and champagne. We need plastic flutes or cups for the champagne toast, sturdy paper plates, and napkins. We have plenty of silverware.



Do you have photos of past events or Islanders? Bring them!

The walls of the “Great Hall” can serve as bulletin boards, so bring pins and pin'em up! Cindy Bertaut wants to take our picture from the deck while we look up and sing Happy Birthday! Joe is writing new lyrics for old songs for a Sing-along. Bring your lyrics and songs too! Games and a treasure hunt are in hand, but please get in touch with Caroline Gelb if you want to work with children or set up a game for the whole family. Reptiles Alive! begins at 2 p.m., so please be on the Island by 1–1:30. Of course you can enjoy Sycamore Island all morning, as usual, boating and picnicking.

CAROLINE GELB, TRYON WELLS, *and* JANE WINER

# March flooding



CLAUDINE MAGGIO



JOHN MEMBRINO



CLAUDINE MAGGIO

If you are at a loss regarding a dish to bring for the occasion, consider this:

## Mac and Cheese Barefoot Contessa Family Style

Prep time: 20 minutes, cook time: 35 minutes • Level: easy, serves 6-8

You will need: kosher salt, 1 pound elbow macaroni, 1 quart milk, 1 stick butter, divided;  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup all-purpose flour, 12 ounces Gruyere cheese, grated (4 cups); 8 ounces extra-sharp cheddar, grated (2 cups);  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon freshly ground black pepper,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon grated nutmeg,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound fresh tomatoes, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fresh bread crumbs (5 slices bread).

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bring to boil a large pot of salted water. Add macaroni and cook according to directions, 6-8 minutes. Drain well. Meanwhile, heat milk in small saucepan, but don't boil! Melt 6 tablespoons butter in a large (4-quart) pot and add the flour. Cook over low heat for 2 minutes, stirring with a

whisk. While whisking, add hot milk and cook one or two minutes more, until thickened and smooth. Off heat, add Gruyere and cheddar cheese, 1 tablespoon salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Add cooked macaroni and stir well. Pour into a 3-quart buttered baking dish. Slice tomatoes and arrange on top. Melt remaining 2 tablespoons butter, combine with breadcrumbs, and sprinkle on top. Bake 30-35 minutes until sauce is bubbly and browned on top.

Make ahead? Put macaroni and cheese in baking dish, cover, and refrigerate until ready to bake. Put tomatoes and breadcrumbs on top, bake about 50 minutes.

## Notes from the Island

**Monday, March 1, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.0 Water Temperature: 41**

Well that was a disgusting job. It isn't much fun bailing out an old canoe after the dirty flood water, slime and rotting leaves have been sitting in it for a month. The water in those swamped canoes finally returned to its liquid state and I was able to bail the boats and move them. It was a big job yanking all these boats out from the bottom rack of the canoe shed but I'm glad to get it done. I think I'll wait until all the snow pack is gone before I put them back.

I saw bluebirds today, five of them, and an eagle at the nest.

Here is a web site that tells you how much snow is in our watershed. It's a little scary.

[http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/nsa/index.html?year=2010&month=2&day=28&units=e&region=Eastern\\_Coastal](http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/nsa/index.html?year=2010&month=2&day=28&units=e&region=Eastern_Coastal)

**Thursday, March 4, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.3 Water Temperature: 41**

The river is above five feet and it looks like it will be this way for a while. I've almost forgotten what the bell sounds like, not good. This will be yet another Saturday when there won't be a need for a relief caretaker. I've



Island guage on 3/15/2010

lost track of when the club was last open on a Saturday but I think it was almost two months ago!

**Friday, March 5, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.2 Water Temperature: 41**

Ferry is still closed.

I saw the three does here again this morning. I can't figure out if they come and go at night or if they are really good at hiding themselves during the midday. I only see them in the early morning.

The geese were making a ruckus this morning, fighting over nesting ground. And right now, I can here the sound of the mourning dove outside my window, beginning its mating call. Ah, the signs and sounds of spring are coming up everywhere.

**Sunday, March 7, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.1 Water Temperature: 41**

I try to make it as clear as possible and let everyone know that the ferry is closed but inevitably, someone will come down and ring the bell. I posted a message on the web site and I left a recording on the answering machine but it doesn't seem to matter, they still come down and ring the bell. They will read the sign at the landing saying "HIGH WATER FERRY CLOSED" and they will still ring the bell. Then they ring it again, and again?

Here is the website to check the river level. If it reads five feet or above, the ferry is closed.

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=01646500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv/?site_no=01646500)

If any of you have ever tried to pull the ferry across the river in five feet of water, with a steady wind coming down river, you would understand why we have to cut off ferry service.

I just saw my first bluebells of the season peeking through the soft ground!

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 8.0 Water Temperature: 50**

Well it looks like we're going to get a real spring flood this year. In the eight winters that I've been here there really hasn't been a lot of snow pack in the mountains to worry about, but not this year. I was shocked yesterday when I saw that the river at Little Falls was going to be at 15 feet by Monday! This could be the biggest flood we've had since I moved here!

I want to thank everyone that came out yesterday for the emergency flood prep. I was very, very impressed



JOE HAGE

Island at crest of Flood of 2010!

with the number of people that came out in the rain and high water to help me get ready, and on such short notice too. The people of this club are awesome. They took every boat out of the canoe shed, tied everything down and even helped me move my bedroom furniture up to the upper level! We all met at 3:00 but it was 7:00 by the time the ferry rope was down and I was back in my quarters.

Evacuate? This is one of those rare times when it looks like I will have to abandon ship and leave the Island until things calm down. The girls and I evacuated once before, back when hurricane Isabel hit, but usually I try to stay put during high water and ride it out.

### Sunday, March 14, 2010

**Water Level at Little Falls: 12.0** **Water Temperature: 50**

I went down to lock House 6 to help with the sandbagging. The Park Service delivered eight pallets of sandbags and the C&O canal Trust organized a bunch of us, mostly canal trust volunteers and residents of Brookmont to stack them around the historic building. I had never done sandbagging before and I found it

rather fun. We laid sandbags all around the lockhouse, but it might have been unnecessary since we have now heard that the forecast has changed and the river is supposed to crest at 12.9 instead of the dreaded 15.9. I'm able to relax a little now. I'm pretty confident that my quarters won't be flooded. I'm not going to start moving the beds back down stairs just yet, but I've decided that I probably don't need to evacuate. The towpath is at around 14 feet so as long as there is a towpath I'm confident that I can get out, no problem. I went off-Island this morning to check on Lockhouse 8 but since I'm home now I think I'll stay safely at home. The river seems to be rising faster now. I'm glad I was on the Island while the waters were rising, there were some boats that needed rescue. I had to paddle down the middle of the canoe shed and free the boats that were stuck under the rafters.

Bad news, my phone and internet just went dead. I'm not really surprised. We tried to raise to cable as high as we could on Friday but it just wasn't enough to prevent the flood waters from taking it out. This is a serious hassle since it means we'll have to restring the

cable across the river. The same is also true for the electric cable that feeds the lights on the trail. It was too low to be safe from the flood waters and will have to be restrung as well. What a pain.

**Monday, March 15, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 13.5 Water Temperature: 50**

I had every intention of getting off the Island this morning and going to my part time job at NIH. I assumed that the towpath would be there and I would be able to paddle over. But when I looked out across the river into the gloom, something wasn't right. I couldn't tell at first what I was looking at but then I realized what I was seeing. I reached for my binoculars, just to confirm but it looked like the towpath was already under water. What was strange was that the level of the river was lower than the level of the canal and the water was cascading down our landing steps, from the canal into river. It did not take me long to decide that I really didn't want to tangle with this river today. I probably could have made it across and it probably wasn't that deep on the towpath but why risk it? It was funny, soon after I called in "sick" to work, I



JOE HAGE

saw a bicyclist peddle through the six-inch-deep water on the towpath, people are amazing creatures.

Speaking of creatures, being home all day gave me a chance to observe quite a few of them. There may not be anyone else here but I am certainly not alone here on the Island, in fact, I am sharing my house with a ground hog. These burrowing animals seem to appear and disappear like rabbits in a hat! Once again there seems to be a young marmot living under my floor!

I also saw a few of our summer resident song birds returning to nest. I saw a brown creeper, a phoebe, and a yellow-rumped warbler. The Canada geese, of course, have turned into total terrors now that nesting season has started. During this time of year there are some parts of the island that you just can't go to without being attacked by vicious geese. I haven't seen the island deer lately, they must have sensed the flood and headed for higher ground.

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 12.5 Water Temperature: 50**

The river is receding and our Island is reemerging from its muddy waters like a resurrected Atlantis. After inspecting the Island, I'm happy to report that we fared pretty well with only minimal damage to the club. My phone line was taken out of course, but we didn't lose any boats or docks and the ferry is still there. The picnic tables are piled on top of one another but intact. We did lose the martin house that was by the swim float but I don't think we ever had any martins nesting in there anyway. It was really great to have that time on Friday to get the Island ready. There was some major erosion on the towpath berm and our steps were undercut by the water as well.

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 10.0 Water Temperature: 50**

What is going to be the challenge of the day? Yesterday it was a challenge just to come and go from the Island. Today I think the challenge will be removing all the mud from the boardwalk and ferry landings.

There is an amazing amount of mud and silt piled up on the boardwalk. The flood waters have changed the topography of the island and there is now a big sandbar laid across the walkway. Most of the mud is only a few inches deep but this sandbar is over six inches deep! Moving all that mud is going to be like shoveling snow all over again.





JOE HAGE

Liquid Adventures leading a group of thirty-five paddlers, at 9 feet!

**Thursday, March 18, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 8.0 Water Temperature: 50**

The challenge for today was to get ready for the phone-repair man. Getting the heavy phone line across the river is not going to be easy and I want to be ready when they get here. I decided that it would be easier to carry a rope across the river first and use that to pull the phone line across. The bell rope should be long enough so I untied it from the railing and put it in a canoe. I tied one end to a tree and then paddled like hell toward the utility pole on the opposite shore. What makes this operation difficult is that once the rope gets in the water the current starts to pull it down river. You have to hurry across or the rope will be pulled down river before you can tie-off on the other side. It looked like I was going to make it and I was just inches from grabbing a sturdy tree on the mainland when the rope ran out. Suddenly, the current pulled the rope attached to the back of my canoe and I started to go backwards down stream. I quickly dug in my paddle and desperately tried to fight the force of the river. My muscles

ached and the sweat was running down my face but I managed to get close enough to that tree to drop my paddle and wrap my arms around it. Now what? I was standing in a canoe that was being tugged from underneath me as I was bear-hugging a tree. I used my leg to hold me to the tree while I reached for the rope at the other end of the canoe. I thought of giving up and cutting the rope and freeing myself from this quandary but I thought that if I could only get the rope around the tree I would be alright. I was really working now, using all my strength to hold on to that tree and pull in the rope at the same time. Somehow, I was able to get the rope around the tree, but then I realized, I'm an idiot. I had my line passing under the back seat of the canoe and I had myself stuck. I would have to untie from the tree and get untangled from the canoe. Ugh, I again considered giving up and cutting the line but decided to give it one more try. I tied off the canoe and untied the rope. I fished it through the canoe seat and was able to pull enough slack to get it around the tree again. I scrambled up the high bank and onto the

shore. I was now covered in mud and getting strange looks from the people on the tow path, but I was standing on the mainland and I was in great shape to pull my rope out of the river. Now all we had to do was to tie the phone cable to this line and I would be able to pull it over to the Island, no problem. Next time I think I will try to be less spontaneous and plan to have someone here to help me.

**Friday, March 19, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 6.5 Water Temperature: 50**

The repair man from Verizon showed up today. He called me in the morning with the typical question, "where is your house?" After walking him down the path and showing him the problem, he was overwhelmed and quickly decided to come back on Monday with more help. I can't say that I'm surprised or that I blame him for bailing out, but it means I'll have no phone or email for another four days.

**Tuesday, March 23, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.2 Water Temperature: 50**

I had high hopes that Verizon would show up yesterday but with all that rain I guess they had a good excuse to cancel on me. They promised they would be here today.

I awoke this morning to the sound of a groundhog digging and scurrying around under my bedroom floor.

I spent the weekend painting. There were still some areas inside my house that never got painted during the construction. We had all the furniture moved out for the flood so it was a perfect time to get the painting completed. It looks so much better now that it's painted.

I biked up to Lockhouse 8 to see how it fared during the flood. There was a little water in the cellar but it was high and dry during the worst of the flood. I did see where the river came over its banks and inundated the canal. Just below Lock 8 the canal dips low and it was obvious where the river poured over the canal berm. There was much erosion on the berm and sadly it looks like the gates to the lock were damaged too. One of the giant arms that is used to open the lock was gone.

That pesky lesser celandine is sprouting on the island again. I'm so afraid that this stuff is going to take over the island and choke out our bluebells. If you have ever walked along Rock Creek near Candy Cane City you know how this plant can take over a forest floor. I spent some time eradicating.



JOE HAGE

New ground hog on island.

**Thursday, March 25, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.2 Water Temperature: 52**

The last time anyone signed the sheet on the ferry, aside from March 12 for the flood prep, was January 25. That's two months since the ferry has been operating on a regular basis! That's one sixth of the year! And guess what, the river is predicted to go up to 6.5 on Sunday, so the ferry will be closed again this weekend.

We were going to plan a clean-up day on the island to put things back in order after the flood but so far we haven't had a good opportunity to do so. Much of this big clean-up work may have to wait until we do the official spring workfest.

I forgot to mention that the flood waters lifted and moved the auxiliary canoe rack that we had constructed out of old telephone poles. This rack was located on the down-river side of the canoe shed and held about eight boats. It is now in pieces and washed up against a tree near the old tree house.

The flood did a lot of earth moving too. There are deep cuts in the upriver side of the Island and some past buried berms were exposed. On the down river side, near the newer tree house, there seems to be a new layer of silt and sand that is 6 to 12 inches deep.

**Friday, March 26, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 5.1 Water Temperature: 52**

Tryon sent out an email to all the club members this afternoon. We are asking everyone to please come



JOE HAGE

down and help with getting our fleet back into its dry-dock. I will be here coordinating the effort. I want to get all the canoes and kayaks back on their respective racks so that the feilds will be free for the blue-bells to sprout forth their splendor. Right now our island looks like a giant canoe parking lot.

Obviously I've got my phone and DSL connection back. Verizon was out here on Tuesday morning and with my help they got the line across the river and reconnected. As it turns out, the technician that was here to fix the line has worked here on Sycamore Island before, way back when we called it C & P telephone. It was great having a tech that had so much experience and wasn't afraid of the challenges that our island presents. Sadly he'll be retiring soon.

JOE HAGE

Saturday Relief Caretakers <b>April 2010</b>		
	10 A.M. – 3 P.M.	3 P.M. – DARK
APRIL 3	Fred Wright 301.229.7184 fredwright@yahoo.com	Francis and Francoise Latapie 301.229.1429 Latapie3@aol.com
APRIL 10	Margaret Barry 301.229.5351 Barry@law.edu	Chuck Pill 202.415.0556 seapill@gmail.com
APRIL 17	Lee Gravatte and Carol Cavenaugh 202.333.6830 ccyoga@starpower.net	Margaret Barry 301.229.5351 Barry@law.edu
APRIL 24	Eric and Beth Smith 703.798.6896 Esconcepts2@yahoo.com	Tamara and Joe Belden 202.882.2224 tamarabelden@gmail.com

# The Sycamore Islander

6613 80th Place  
Cabin John, MD 20818

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



CLAUDINE MAGGIO

### Large Parties Scheduled

Lisa Killiefoth, St. Albans class picnic for 35 persons, Monday, April 26, 11–2.

Renee Dunham, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Hikers, Wednesday, May 12, 12–1.



### SAVE THE DATE

**Sycamore Island  
125th Anniversary Party**  
May 8, 2010  
Fun for all!



*The Sycamore Islander* is a monthly newsletter of the Montgomery Sycamore Island Club. Articles, photographic essays, drawings, announcements, letters to the editors—any materials of interest to the membership and waiting list—are welcome. Text and graphics may be sent as email attachments to: Carol Beehler at [cbeehler@comcast.net](mailto:cbeehler@comcast.net). The deadline for inclusion in the May issue is May 3.

Masthead photo by David Winer.