



# The Sycamore Islander

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## President's Letter

Typically, not a lot of Island business takes place in mid-summer. Vacation time slows attendance at monthly meetings. This past month followed the pattern. On the other hand, members still found the Island quite attractive for visiting. The swimming has been, and is, most inviting in the lengthy heat wave that has been this summer's scourge. The devastating wind and rain storm in late July caused much damage in the surrounding neighborhoods but didn't even cause a power failure at the clubhouse. Some tree damage occurred on the Island itself, and a fall did interfere with the path down from MacArthur Boulevard.

The July meeting was one member short of a quorum. As a result the Club could not vote in several new eligible candidates offered by the Membership Chair, Peter Winkler. Those in attendance discussed several matters of importance, but of course without official recognition. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 11, at the clubhouse. As usual we expect casual grilling an hour or so before the 8:00 o'clock start.**

We have a couple of newly installed—and delightful—amenities. Joe Hage, our caretaker, rigged up the former zip line that allowed sliding down toward the river from the clubhouse. It now runs from the canoe shed toward the other side of the island. I watched young adults try it out and can imagine how the kids will like it. But the new slide-into-the-river attached to the swimming dock is strictly for the kids. Again, we can thank Joe for finding this hefty bit of jetsam upstream and resurrecting it for our enjoyment. Joe includes a

water bucket alongside for lubricating the slide.

Captain Tryon Wells says that our new lockers will be ordered, delivered, and installed by the end of August. This is very good news for those of us who like to keep gear at the ready for our visits to the Island. I used to stash fishing tackle, bathing suit, sun hat, PFDs, charcoal, and other items in our locker and have missed this amenity since the renovation emptied the spaces where we had lockers.

Yeaaa! We are going to have the Fishing Derby this summer. In fact, very soon— Saturday, August 14. George Malusky, our most ardent (I might add “arguably,” but who would contest?) fisher, is running the show again. This event has always been a huge success, so put it on your and your kids' calendars. See the announcement in this newsletter.

Another event to mark is the Old Timers Day next month. This party for all is scheduled for Tuesday morning on September 21 with rain date for Friday the 24th. Charlotte Brewer is in charge of this gathering and will organize the pot luck picnic. A great time to hang out. Reminiscing encouraged.

I was privileged to show Juliet Crowder from California around the Island last week. Her grandmother in San Diego asked her to visit and report about the Club. Elizabeth “Betty” Crowder, and grandfather, Robert “Bob” Crowder, were members many years ago when they were first married.

DAVID WINER  
President

## Notes from the Island

**Tuesday, July 13, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9 Water Temperature: 83**

The rain is a welcome sight, even if it means that the river is clouding up now. All of this mud and trash in the water puts a big damper on the fishing and the swimming. The mud is especially bad after a long drought, when dirt, pollen, and contaminants build up on the landscape.

**Thursday, July 15, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9 Water Temperature: 83**

The heavy rains brought a lot of stuff past the Island and much of it was snagged by the captains float. The dock acts as a strainer and tons of trash were piled against it yesterday. I spent several minutes pushing all the branches, logs and sticks out into the current. The plastic bottles, tennis balls, softballs, soccer balls and styro-foam, I scooped out of the duckweed as they drifted past me. Looking down river the clumps of sticks covered with duckweed looked like floating islands.

**Wednesday, July 20, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.85 Water Temperature: 85**

I'm doing a lot of yard work this week and last. I sort of put the big painting project on hold until the weather cools off a little. The jewel weed is growing well and some stalks are taller than me. The stinging nettles are big now too and I have been trying to keep the trails clear of that nuisance. The "grass" in the field is growing incredibly fast as well, I cut the grass on Friday and by Monday you can't even tell it was cut.

During my trail-clearing shifts I notice that there are some new invasive plants taking hold on the Island. This is not good. There is a large patch of Kudzu near the head of the Island and we also have Chinese Yam to add to our list of unwanted colonizers.

Just a reminder. In order to use the Club you must be a member in good standing or be the guest of a member. You may also purchase a pass if you are on the wait list. The pass will allow you to use the Club during weekdays. Lately I have been getting many requests from non-members to use the Club; those people wear me out.

**Monday, July 26, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.77 Water Temperature: 88**

Good news, there was no damage done to the Club during that sudden storm yesterday. The only problem is that there is now a large tree across the path on the way down the hill. I did not lose power and since I have a well I don't need to ration my water use, Yeehaw!

I had some young volunteers here last week and we made some real fun improvements to the Island. First, we installed the new zip line! We haven't built the launch platform yet but with the help of a tall ladder we are able to grab the trolley and have a good ride. Make sure you put your feet up. Secondly, we installed a makeshift water slide on the swimming dock! I had found an old plastic slide that was wedged into a tree on Minnies Island. I think it was brought there by the extreme flood we had back in March. Anyway, I managed to fit the slide into my canoe and I carried it back to Sycamore. The kids and I did some minor repairs to the thing, and after attaching it to a four foot-ladder we had ourselves a pretty respectable slide. It's a little small for me, but it was perfect for the kids and they loved it. Thanks to member Scott Bertaut and my nephew, William Huisentruit.

**Monday, July 30, 2010**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.62 Water Temperature: 88**

I spoke a little too soon about the damage caused by the storm last week. No buildings were damaged but some of the large trees on the Island were severely damaged. The snapped-off top of a silver maple is blocking the trail by the tool shed. Of course when I discovered the limb I looked up to see which tree it came from. To my surprise, the closest silver maple was a good twenty feet away! That must have been a very strong wind. A sycamore also took a hit, over by the swimming dock.

I thought I was doing a pretty good job of keeping all the invasive plants and vines in check but I guess I was wrong. Everywhere I turn now, I see invasive vines. I even found a oriental bittersweet vine that was over an inch thick and smothering an entire tree. I'm also getting worried about the recent invasion of Japanese yam. These buggers are popping up everywhere and some have now gone to seed. It seems worse than in years past and I wonder if it has anything to do with the major flood we had back in March.

JOE HAGE

# Sycamore Island Club Fishing Derby

## Saturday, August 1, 2010



George Malusky again coordinates Sycamore Island's annual Fishing Derby. Coffee and donuts at 9:00 am but come earlier if you would like to start fishing sooner (or just to tell your fishing stories.) The club provides a picnic lunch of burgers and hot dogs.

In past years the fishing derby has been a very popular event for club members of all ages. Fish from the banks of the Island or on the river in canoes. Live bait will be on hand. If you don't have any fishing tackle there will be some available in the clubhouse, first come, first serve.

Lots of prizes !!! For the biggest bass, biggest bluegill, biggest catfish, biggest walleye, biggest carp, for the most fish caught, for the biggest fish overall, for the smallest fish, and more !!! The one catch we guarantee is a fun time for all.

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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

Saturday Relief Caretakers <b>August 2010</b>		
	10 A.M.–3 P.M.	3 P.M.–DARK
AUGUST 7	Ann Marie & John Cunningham 703.876.9165 amcunning@earthlink.net	Ned Goddard 301.229.5660 NEDgoddard@yahoo.com
AUGUST 14	Joyce Kreskow 301.649.6424 JoyKreskow@netzero.com	Alison Levine 301.538.3796 as_levine@yahoo.com
AUGUST 21	David & Lynda Martin-McCormick 202.363.2863 Lyndam2m@gmail.com	Eric Simpson 703.821.7556 ewsimpson@cox.net
AUGUST 28	Paul Hagen 202.966.9764 phagen@bdlaw.com	Witt & Ann Farquhar 301.320.4042 wfarquhar@maret.org

### Large Parties Scheduled



September 1, Richard Lodish hosts a school faculty meeting of 34 persons from 9 to 1.



*The Sycamore Islander* is the monthly newsletter of the Montgomery Sycamore Island Club. Every attempt is made to publish the *Islander* before the second Wednesday of the month and in advance of the monthly meeting. 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, cbeehler@comcast.net. The deadline for inclusion in the September issue is September 1.