



The Sycamore Islander

NOVEMBER 2014 | VOLUME 93 NUMBER 11

President's Letter

The November club meeting will be on the Island on Wednesday, November 12th, at 8:00 p.m. unless we have a snowstorm to force an off-Island meeting. Email blast will sound the alarm if the weather turns unseasonably cold. This will be the last meeting on the Island until March 2015.

The December 10 Meeting/Party will be at home of John and Diane Noble, 7024 Arandale Road in Bethesda at 8:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and think about what juicy dish or powerful spirit you will bring to share. There will be a short meeting to elect officers and approve the 2015 budget, then Party On.

Almost as fun as the year-end party will be the Sunday, November 16th, fall Work Fest, commencing at 9:30 for the important work of retrieving and dissembling the floats, raking leaves, and a long list of activities to get the Island and clubhouse ready for winter devised by Captain Drew Walsh, Deputy Captain Steve Newman and Caretaker Joe Hage. Members and waitlisters alike are encouraged to participate in the work fest, which is

a great way to meet fellow members and have a lot of fun too. Not to mention the sumptuous pot luck lunch—always good and well deserved. Come for a last pre-winter hurrah on the Island!

Kudos to Treasurer Ned Goddard who swiftly and professionally averted a potential crisis with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, which had levied a huge increase in the Island's solid waste disposal assessment. Ned acted quickly, including arranging for a visit by inspectors to the Island, and got the levy rescinded—netting a huge refund. But the refund was not large enough to negate the need for a modest dues increase for next year as reported in the Minutes. (This will be the first dues increase in two years.)

Thanks to volunteers for hosting the off-Island meetings in January and February 2015. They are: January, Lynda and Gary Slayen, 6605 Riverside Court, Bethesda; February, Vicki Judson, 6203 Dahlonga Road, Bethesda

BILL MARMON
President

Minutes for the October 8th Meeting

Attendees: Drew Walsh, Jane Winer, Ned Goddard, Robin Richter, David Winer, Star Mitchell, John Membrino, Bill Eichbaum, Jim Drew, Bill Marmon, Richard Bertaut, and Ann Marie Cunningham

Call to Order and Minutes: The meeting was called to order by President Bill Marmon. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Treasurers Report: Ned Goddard has brought the accounts up-to-date, and projected the expenditures and revenue for the rest of the year. There have been a lot of accomplishments this year, including new safety and swimming equipment, a generator, roof and siding, and a surprise expense of about \$5,300 to the county for solid waste management. Ned paid this to avoid a penalty, but requested a review of the charge and led an inspector on a tour of the Island to show that we are a zero-waste property. He expects to receive a refund of a major portion of this payment. The net result, even excluding the unwelcome surprise, is that we are over-budget by about \$10,000 for the year. In the past, Alan Gelb consistently gauged the budget to the CPI, which generally resulted in a dues increase of 2 to 3% per year. Last year there was no increase. While he will continue to monitor expenses and income, he expects that it will be necessary to increase dues effective January 1, possibly by 5%. He will present the budget and make a dues recommendation in November, which will be voted upon at the annual meeting in December (aka the holiday party.)

Ned intends that the new budget will hold the line on variable expenses such as repairs, entertainment and grounds. Fixed costs, such as salary, insurance, and printing and mailing costs for *The Islander*, are expected to increase. As insurance costs tend to increase more rapidly than other expenses, Ned intends to speak to brokers to find quality coverage at a better rate. We also encourage members to opt to receive *The Islander* electronically.

Dave Winer admitted that he was apprehensive when Alan Gelb announced that he was retiring after many years as our treasurer. However, he has been delighted that Ned has done such an admirable job of filling Alan's very large footprints.

Captain's Report: Drew Walsh reported that the décor of the clubhouse was improved by Jerry Barton and himself when they hung pictures and maps prior to the dance. The fall workfest will be held on November 16th, with a rain date of the 23rd. Drew is working with Deputy Captain Steve Newman to develop a list of projects and a budget for next year. Ned Goddard, Steve Newman, Drew Walsh, with the help of Joe Hage hauled debris that had washed ashore over this past year and other bulk trash items off the Island. Joe Hage also straightened up the area below and around the tool shed.

Nominating: Ann Marie Cunningham applauded her committee members Tryon Wells and Bill Marmon for filling the entire slate of officers during her vacation. Please note that the vast majority of officers have agreed to continue next year. Newcomer exceptions are Richard Bertaut who is the nominee for Vice President and Ellen Kennedy, who will run for Finance Supervisor. The full list of nominees appears elsewhere in *The Islander*. The election will be held in December.

Relief Caretaker's Report: Jody Benjamin reported by email that Meredith Griggs (twice!), Lauren Brandt, Jennifer Urquhart, Kevin Haley, Madeleine Carter (Graham), Gordon and Linda Phillips, and Mike Petrilli served as relief caretakers in the last month. We are so grateful to them and to the rest of you who help to make the Island available to all of us. Thank you.

Entertainment: There was much talk about how much fun the three special events in September were. First was the Regatta which was great fun for children of all ages as they raced with a variety of challenges on and around the Island. Next was the Good-Timers lunch where guests provided story and song for entertainment. And last, but definitely not least, was the Fall Dance and Concert featuring BG and the Mojos. We are indebted to Cindy Bertaut, Lucky Marmon, Robin Richter, Jane Winer, and a host of others who made the Island so much more fun for us all.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
ANN MARIE CUNNINGHAM
Co-Recording Secretary

End of the Swimming Season 2014

We're always looking for suggestions. Don't be shy offering them.

Thanks to many who made several safety updates available during Swim Season 2014.

We hope never to use the Rescue Paddleboard, but it's nice to have and probably made some swimmers take note as they entered the water.

Safety is always paramount. We're most vulnerable with youngsters who don't always share adult awareness of potential danger. Thanks to everybody for making Swim Season 2014 a good and safe summer.

ROGER HERST
Swim Supervisor

DON'T FORGET TO COME TO THE WORKFEST



Sunday, November 16, 9:30 a.m.

2015 Slate of Officers and Supervisors

Voting to occur at the December meeting

OFFICERS

President	Tyron Wells
Vice President	Richard Bertaut
Co-Recording Secretary	Ann Marie Cunningham
Co-Recording Secretary	Lucky Marmon
Treasurer	Ned Goddard
Financial Secretary	Lisa Kliefloth
Membership Secretary	John Noble
Editor	Carol Beehler
Archivist	Karen Possner
Captain	Drew Walsh
Deputy Captain	Steve Newman

SUPERVISORS

Finance	Ellen Kennedy
Law	Parker Moore
Clubhouse	Marianne Ross
Grounds	Alice Bullard
Painting/Carpentry	Karl Kosok
Website	Tyron Wells
Entertainment	George and Shelley Malusky
Camping/Parties	Jonathan Zmmerman
Canoeing	Joe Cecil
Swimming	Roger Herst
Relief Caretaking Schedule	Jody Benjamin

Whitewater Kayak Free to a Good Home

Savage Gravity, has skirt, needs plug.

As we are not using it we are happy to give it to someone who will. It is now on the Island.

Please contact Alan Gelb at alangelb@yahoo.com





Notes from the Island

Thursday, October 30, 2014

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9 Water Temperature: 59

I met our white-tailed visitor yesterday morning, a young, six-point buck. I walked towards it as it stood down near the captain's float and I got pretty close before it ran down island. I ran after it, just to see what it would do, but when it stopped running, I stopped as well and decided to leave the guy in peace. Then, late last night, my headlamp caught the reflection of his two shining eyes, staring at me when I got home.

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9 Water Temperature: 58

I'm back from my trip to Oregon. It was really nice to get out of the city for a while. I only heard one helicopter the whole time I was gone! Here at Sycamore Island you can escape from most of city life but you can't escape from the perpetual humm of the choppers and airplanes.

The trucks have started to roll down the towpath and the resurfacing has begun. It looks like they are going to start at Lock 7 and work their way down to Lock 5. I had to raise our power line above the towpath to make room for the big trucks.

Speaking of power lines, I finally got the phone line

raised up away from the river. The line was hanging dangerously low and close to the water and I wanted to get it up high before the river flooded again. I had to climb high ladders, wrestle with sharp branches, test the limits of the pole saw out over the river and use simple brute strength, but I got it done. I guess I'll never get it up as high as I want it but I'm very pleased with where the phone line is right now, high and dry.

There are signs of deer on the Island. They are rarely here but when they are it's around this time of year.

Monday, October 13, 2014

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.8 Water Temperature: 62

Good news, the Park Service is going to resurface the towpath. They did not say how long it would take but work is supposed to begin today to resurface the towpath from Lock 5 to Lock 7. They are not going to close the towpath but there may be some inconveniences getting down to the Island during the construction.

Monday, October 6, 2014

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9 Water Temperature: 64

I think that the swimming season may be over. The water temperature fell from 72 to 64 degrees in just a week.

Hopefully the fish will be biting a little while longer. I think our weekend campers had a good time,



JOE HAGE

despite the frigid temperatures. Suddenly it's time to start cutting and chopping firewood again.

Sunday, October 5, 2014

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9, Water Temperature: 65

The river is nice and low right now, just the way I like it. Actually, the river has not been this low since August 2011!

JOE HAGE
Caretaker

GO GREEN! Did you know that you can help the club save money and conserve our planet's resources by electing to receive a gorgeous, full color, online edition of *The Islander* each month? Electing to download *The Islander* to your computer, iPad, or mobile device is easy, and you can print it out if you prefer to read a hard copy. Please consider doing your part to save the club money on printing and postage, as well as conserving our planet's precious resources. Contact nedgoddard@yahoo.com to make your request. Thank you



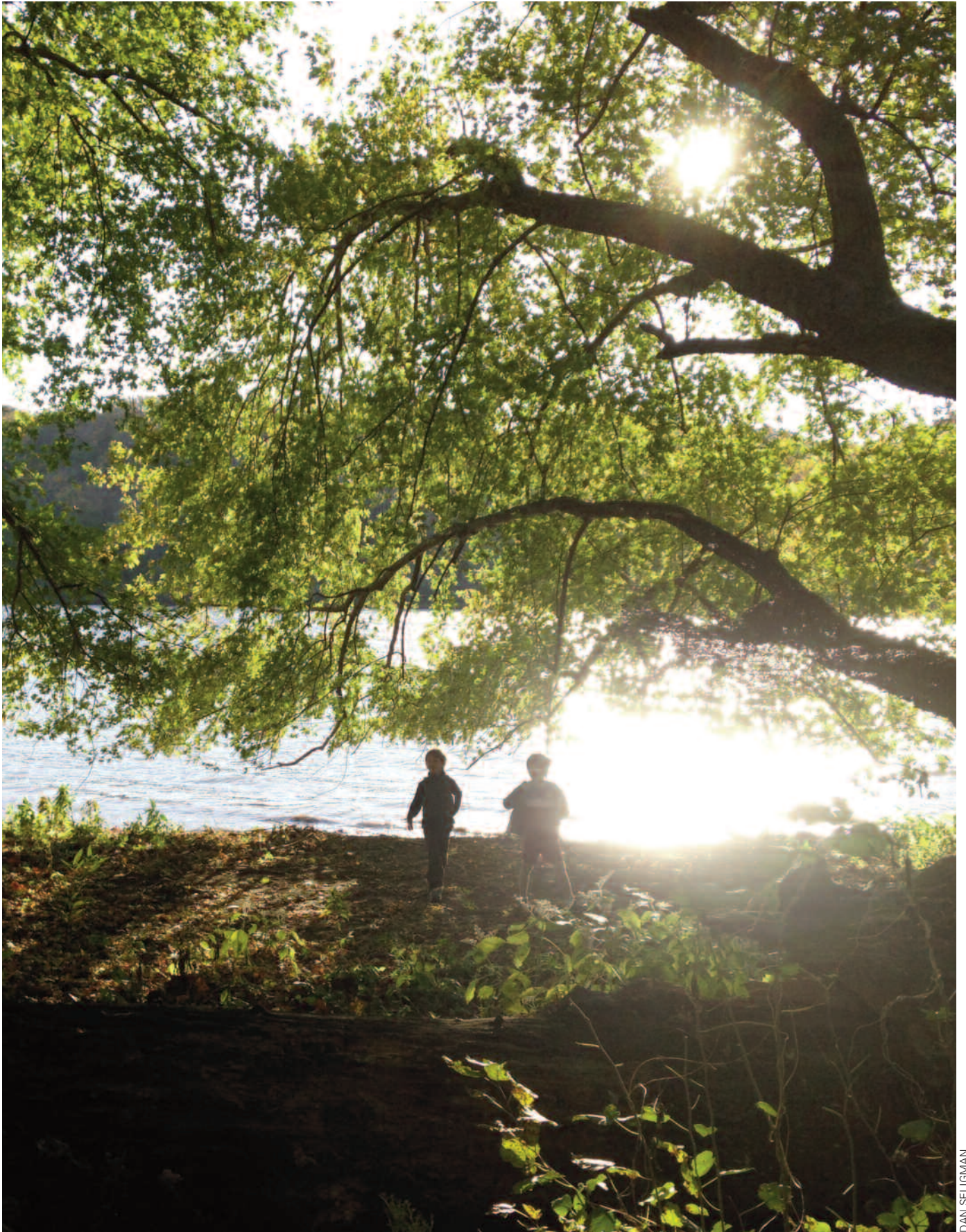
JOE HAGE

Mary and her son paddle near the dam.



JOE HAGE

A very pale, almost white, jewel weed



DAN SELIGMAN

To Autumn

JOHN KEATS

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

The Sycamore Islander

6613 80th Place
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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To volunteer as a substitute caretaker, please email your choice of day and shift to Jody Benjamin, benjafamily@gmail.com.

Saturday Relief Caretakers October/November 2014				
NOVEMBER	10 A.M.–2 P.M	2 P.M.–DUSK	DECEMBER	11 A.M.–SUNSET
NOVEMBER 1	Meredith Griggs	Please Volunteer	DECEMBER 6	Please Volunteer
NOVEMBER 8	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer	DECEMBER 13	Please Volunteer
NOVEMBER 15	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer	DECEMBER 20	Please Volunteer
NOVEMBER 22	Christy and Garth Ross	John Lord	DECEMBER 27	Please Volunteer
NOVEMBER 29	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer		

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 in advance of the monthly meeting. Articles, photographs, drawings—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 December issue is November 28.