



# *The Sycamore Islander*

SEPTEMBER 2015 | VOLUME 94 NUMBER 9

## Minutes for the August 12 Meeting

There was not a quorum for the meeting, but what follows are the notes.

**Attendees:** Tryon Wells, Richard Bertaut, Jim Drew, Jane Winer, David Winer, Drew Walsh, Gerry Barton, Robin Richter (waitlist), Meredith Griggs (waitlist), Avi Garbow (waitlist)

The main topic of discussion concerned plans for an upcoming Fall party. Robin Richter raised the topic and the group discussed sending around a save-the-date notice for the party to be held September 26th, from 6-10 p.m. The group talked about the possibility of using a DJ for music (as opposed to a band) in order to save

money, though additional check-ins will be done to confirm appropriate budget to consider for the event. Those who attended last year's Fall party (as did I) had a great time, and the hope is that members, waitlisters, and guests, will attend, pitch in, and make it another special event on the Island.

In addition, Meredith Griggs mentioned doing a picnic prior to the monthly meetings, mainly to encourage attendance. She indicated that she would consider helping arrange a picnic in advance of the upcoming September meeting, though will confirm arrangements with Joe.

Respectfully submitted,  
AVI GARBOW (waitlist)

## Picnic Before This Month's Meeting

Come down to the Island early before the September 9th meeting to grill and chill with members and wait listers. All are welcome. Joe promises to have the grill going by 7:00. Bring your own food and drink. The meeting starts at 8:00.

## Notes from the Island

**Sunday, August 23, 2015**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 3.1 Water Temperature: 88**

The river fell all the way down below 2.8 feet at Little Falls but now it's back up above three feet. I guess the rain we had earlier this week was enough to bump it up.

**Tuesday, August 25, 2015**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.9 Water Temperature: 82**

Things have quieted down now, but earlier this month the chainsaws and wood chippers were making quite a racket at the top of the hill. It seems that they are installing new utility poles along the trolley right-of-way and we all know what the utility company thinks of trees. Poor trees.

They are still working on the water mains in Glen Echo Heights as well, and there was a water main break on Goldsboro Road earlier this week. Apparently, the pipe that broke was installed way back in 1941.

They are also working on the new bike path/shoulder on the west-bound side of Macarthur, so things are pretty congested up there.

Meanwhile, down here on the Island, the jewel weed is six feet tall and leaning over the trails and fields. It's

like a wall of jewel weed all around the fields, like spectators at a golf tournament. I cut a path through the tall plants to make a little maze or labyrinth to get to the bird feeder. Kind of like a corn maze but with jewel weed instead. No one seems to know why the jewel weed is growing so tall but most agree that it didn't used to be like this.

I ran into ex-Islander Harry Swartz on the path the other day. He's in his eighties now but was still a member when I started here, and he actually remembered me. It was good to see him and to hear about the old days and to talk about some of the great members that are no longer with us. He and his neighbors paddled here for 30 years!

**Sunday, August 30, 2015**

**Water Level at Little Falls: 2.7 Water Temperature: 80**

13 years! I can't believe that I've lived on this Island for 13 years, that's longer than I've ever lived anywhere in my whole life. I guess I like it here.

Today looks like it's going to be a busy one, the weather is perfect and it's the last day before most of the local kids go back to school. Poor kids. I'll be sad to see this summer season end. It's been such great weather and the Island has been full of activity.

I've been busy painting the clubhouse. It's more like a restoration job with all of the stripping, scraping, sanding, priming, and multiple coats of paint. It's a lot of work but I think the paint is going to last. I'm calling it my once-in-a-lifetime paint job. Doing all of this sanding in the hot sun near the river makes me think of some old guy restoring the hull of some old sail boat at some old marina.

The river is super low, just the way we like it. The

### Sycamore Island's

## Annual Old Timers, Good Timers Potluck Lunch

**Just a reminder of the potluck lunch on the Island**

**Thursday, September 24th, 11:30**

**Bring a dish to share. . . and also (not mandatory) sing or play a song, tell a story or joke.**

**Please note: you don't have to be old or a longtime member to enjoy this event. . . just a Good Timer.**

**RAIN DATE October 14th**

**CONTACT Lucky Marmon, 301 654 7893**

JOE HAGE



Spotted Jewel Weed flower

only down side is that I have to do some more dredging on the Island-side dock so that the water will be deep enough for the ferry to get to shore. I hope the weather stays dry and that we don't get any major tropical storms this fall. I hate floods.

I saw a squirrel crossing the river on the power line. First time I've seen that in all these years. I thought that they only swam over to the Island.

There is a lot of surplus lumber and dock floatation lying around here so I put together a little mini-dock to attach to the canoe dock. This new mini-dock sits much lower in the water than the big plastic one and it may make it easier to get in and out of your kayak.

JOE HAGE  
Caretaker

Sycamore Island mugs are available to club members for \$6 and are available for pick up at each monthly meeting, club workfests, and other club events. Payment is by check made out to Montgomery Sycamore Island Club, cash, or Paypal. Contact msictreasurer@yahoo.com for additional information.



# DON'T MISS

THE BEGINNING OF A  
GREAT TRADITION

## A Saturday Night Island Fall Party

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH,  
6-10 P.M.

RAIN DATE OCTOBER 10TH

IF YOU GOT THE TIME, BABY, WE'VE GOT  
THE ISLAND, SO BRING YOUR BEST DATE  
AND COME TO DANCE, HANG OUT UNDER  
THE STARS, OR JUST LISTEN  
TO THE MUSIC OF

### QUENTIN THE DJ

COME EARLY • BRING SNACKS TO SHARE •  
AND BYOP (BRING YOUR OWN POP) •  
WE'LL OFFER PIZZA & DRINKS

#### QUESTIONS? LIKE TO HELP? CONTACT:

ROBIN RICHTER  
ROBINZACKY@YAHOO.COM  
202.226.1355

LYNDA SLAYEN  
LYNDASLAYEN@VERIZON.NET  
301.229.8963

# The Sycamore Islander

6613 80th Place  
Cabin John, MD 20818

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](mailto:benjafamily@gmail.com).

Saturday Relief Caretakers <b>September/October 2014</b>					
SEPTEMBER	9 A.M.–2 P.M.	2 P.M.–DUSK	OCTOBER	10 A.M.–2 P.M.	2 P.M.–DUSK
SEPTEMBER 5	Meredith Griggs	Penny Mitchell	OCTOBER 3	Please Volunteer	Robin and Florian Kogelnik
SEPTEMBER 12	Please Volunteer	Eric Simpson	OCTOBER 10	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer
SEPTEMBER 19	Rachel Rudy and Nat Reid	Robin and Florian Kogelnik	OCTOBER 17	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer
SEPTEMBER 26	Phoebe Hamill	Barry Lynn and Anya Schoolman	OCTOBER 24	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer
			OCTOBER 31	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 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](mailto:cbeehler@comcast.net). The deadline for inclusion in the October issue is October 2.