



The Sycamore Islander

JUNE 2016 | VOLUME 95 NUMBER 6

Minutes for the May 11th Meeting

Attendees: Lucky Marmon, Bill Marmon, Tryon Wells, Alison Levine, Ann Marie Cunningham, Karen Possner, Drew Walsh, Ned Goddard, Gerry Barton, Richard Bertaut, Vicki Judson

Club President Tryon Wells called the meeting to order. The April Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: None

Membership Report: Vice-President Richard Bertaut, filling in for Membership Chair John Noble, announced that the following Saturday, May 14, was the deadline for "waitlisters" who were welcomed into membership to send in their annual dues. One couple, citing specific reasons, requested a one-year postponement, which was not granted. Richard will encourage the couple to reconsider and make sure that they

understand they would have to go through the lottery process again were they to seek membership.

Captain's Report: Captain Drew Walsh reported that the Spring Workfest was a great success with more than 80 persons participating. A number of projects are planned, including new windows for the Caretaker's apartment and new doors for the club house.

The swim dock is in the water, but will not be hooked up to its mooring system until the spring rains diminish. Most safety equipment will also be installed at a later date. The surfboard is out, as are the poles and throw rings. Drew will be in touch with Steve Newman regarding the safety placards. There is talk of acquiring a row boat.

Gerry Barton noted that the rope for the swing is wearing away. Drew will alert Dave Winer, who is the "swing master."

The fire department is coming to the Island to do a

reconnaissance exercise. Drew suggested that they might be interested in having a water safety day. Vicki Judson recommended her son as a good person to help with water safety instruction.

Vicki Judson stressed the superiority of the “row-and-tow” method of rescuing swimmers. It is better than trying to haul a swimmer aboard a boat or float.

It was suggested that our Swim Supervisor, Roger Herst, write a piece for *The Islander* outlining the swim safety rules for members.

Canoe Cruisers are scheduled to hold their annual race and picnic on Sycamore Island on Saturday, May 14. They might have a water safety expert. Davy Hern and Jim Drew are the Club’s best liaisons with Canoe Cruisers.

Relief Caretaker’s Report: Thanks to the following April/May relief caretakers: Avi Garbow (twice) and Nancy Anderson, Trisha Hartge, Peter Winkler, Story Jones, Meredith Griggs, Alison Levine (twice), Paul Lang, Beth Ewing, Paul Stanton and Kathleen Hooke, Karen Possner, Bob McNulty, and Madeleine Carter.

New Business: Vicki Judson reported that she had not yet found someone to co-chair the organization of a Summer Soltice party and camp-out on the Island. It is unlikely that the event will take place.

Vicki Judson requested and received approval for a big party to be held on the Island on Sunday, July 31. Some 35 persons will attend.

Alison Levine requested and received approval for a large party on June 11.

Archivist Karen Possner reported that a D.C. Historical Society staffer suggested that the Club might want to have its land patents scanned and put on our website. She recommended a company in the Palisades for the job. Treasurer Ned Goddard, noting that a budget of \$500 is specifically designated for that type of project, suggested that it be done.

Special thanks to Karen Possner for the delicious cakes she served at this meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 on June 8, on the Island. The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
LUCKY MARMON
Co-Recording Secretary

Notes from the Island

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 4.59 Water Temperature: 64

I noticed that my contact information is not on the Sycamore Island website, so if you need to reach me my email is joehage@verizon.net.

That was some crazy rain that we had last night. The river shot up from 3.5 to 4.9 in about an hour. then it went right back down to where it is now at 4.5 feet at the Little Falls Gauge. The river is ugly brown and is predicted to be over five feet by Friday, but we’ll have to wait and see what the weather brings.

I’ve been talking about all of the birds that are nesting nearby but I failed to mention the Barred Owls that seem to be making their home here as well. I even got a caretaker’s report from one of the Saturday caretakers whoe mentioned seeing an owl right next to the path by the stone grill, in broad daylight. They seem to be very active and we can hear them hooting to each other day and night.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 5.03 Water Temperature: 64

I just closed the ferry.

The river is going up and it looks like it will continue to rise until Saturday. So far, the river is expected to crest at 6.7 feet on Saturday afternoon. So I guess the ferry will be closed until further notice.

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 6.08 Water Temperature: 64

Happy Mother’s Day! Too bad the river is too high to bring your momma down to the Island today. But good news, it looks like the river may have crested and it seems to be receding. We may be able to open the ferry again by Wednesday morning!

NEW WAITLISTERS ORIENTATION

11 a.m. Sunday, June 12 and June 26, your choice

RSVP johnnoble@mac.com

New WaitListers’ Orientation to the Island is required prior to membership or use of the Island by Wait List Pass participants

John Noble, Membership Secretary 301 320 3554



JOE HAGE

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 5.4 Water Temperature: 60

I spent the morning getting everything ready to open the ferry again but sadly we may not be able to run it tomorrow like I expected. The river just won't cooperate!

I've been working on painting the back of the Clubhouse but with all of this wet weather I haven't made a whole lot of progress. I did get most of the high work done but the rest will have to wait.

Friday, May 27, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 4.95 Water Temperature: 68

THE FERRY IS OPEN!

I got back from my vacation just in time to see the river level drop below five feet. Looks like we'll be ready for the holiday weekend ahead.

Saturday, May 28, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 4.8 Water Temperature: 68

Mary and I are just back from our third annual Canal by Canoe adventure. It was a lot of fun paddling the upper Potomac and raising money for our favorite C&O Canal Trust. There are pictures and stories of our trip at canalbycanoe.com

For 2016, the C&O Canal Trust and its partners have embarked on a super cool and ambitious project—the complete restoration of the iconic Swains Lockhouse

above Great Falls. Mary and I think that this is a great project, and we dedicated our 2016 Canal by Canoe adventure to its support. We set our goal to raise \$1,000 for cool stuff that the Trust couldn't otherwise afford. To our surprise and delight we actually exceeded our goal and raised \$1,010! Thanks for your support!

Sunday, May 29, 2016

Water Level at Little Falls: 4.45 Water Temperature: 73

We're keeping an eye on that tropical storm, Bonnie. It's bringing a lot of rain to our south but we may get lucky and dodge the worst of it. Right now the weather is perfect, not too humid or hot.

Historically, this day and tomorrow have been the busiest days of the year so I have mixed feelings about the weather. I mean a little rain might help me get through the weekend without having to pull the ferry over fifty times.

The river is a little too muddy and swift for swimming today, but that probably won't stop people from jumping in.

No sign of the geese since I got back but it looks like we have a very active pair of Prothonotary Warblers nesting here.

JOE HAGE
Caretaker

The Sycamore Islander

6613 80th Place
Cabin John, MD 20818

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Saturday Relief Caretakers June/July 2016					
JUNE	9 A.M.–3 P.M.	3 P.M.–DUSK	JULY	10 A.M.–3 P.M.	3 P.M.–DUSK
JUNE 11	Molly Newberry	Lucky Marmon	JULY 2	Please Volunteer	Chris Maggio and Liza Karlin
JUNE 18	Please Volunteer	Please Volunteer	JULY 9	Topaz Terry	Please Volunteer
JUNE 25	Bob and Barbara McCartney	Joe McBride	JULY 16	Andy Malmgren	Mike Savage
			JULY 23	David Lyles	Avi Garbow
			JULY 30	Topaz Terry	Chris Maggio and Liza Karlin

To volunteer as a substitute caretaker, please email your choice of day and shift to Madeleine Carter, madeleinecarter@gmail.com.

Large Parties Scheduled



June 10, 4–8 p.m. Allison Levine

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. Text and graphics may be sent as email attachments to: Carol Beehler, cbeehler@comcast.net.

The deadline for inclusion in the July issue is July 1.

Masthead photo of Snapping Turtles on a log by Joe Hage.