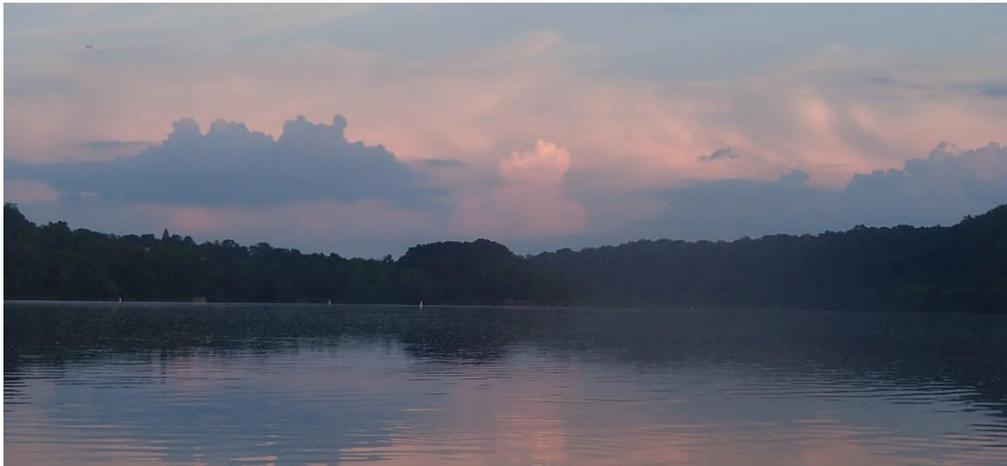


The Sycamore Islander

August 2019 | Volume 98 Number 8



Photos by Joe Hage

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August 14: Monthly Club Meeting, 8:00 pm, on the Island

September 2: Labor Day Regatta, 2-6 pm

September 11: Club Meeting, 8 pm, on the Island

Relief Caretakers' Schedule and Online Sign-Up System

To sign-up to be a Relief Caretaker (any Saturday), you can access the "Sign-Up Genius" app from the [SycamoreIsland.org scheduling webpage](http://SycamoreIsland.org/scheduling-webpage) (or by clicking the Relief Caretaker Schedule and Instructions icon on the Club's home page). Click on the link. There are simple instructions. [You can also sign-up by contacting the Relief Caretaker Coordinator, Madeleine Carter, at madeleinecpcarter@gmail.com]. The app now provides a calendar that indicates the Relief Caretakers that have signed up through September (including several extra days during August when Joe will be off during the week) and provides reminders. Relief Caretakers signed up for the coming month are:

August 1

9 am to 3 pm: Sam Bloch
3 to 9 pm: Jody Benjamin

August 2

9 am to 3 pm: Jim Drew
3 to 9 pm: Jody Benjamin

August 3

9 am to 3 pm: Alissa Stern and Louis Boorstin
3 to 9 pm: John Cunningham

August 4

9 am to 3 pm: Andrew George
3 to 9 pm: Dirk Suringa

August 6

9 am to 3 pm: Marianne Ross
3 to 9 pm: Mark Del Bianco

August 10

9 am to 3 pm: Andy Malmgren
3 to 9 pm: Jennifer Urquhart

August 17

9 am to 3 pm: Meredith Griggs
3 to 9 pm: Ashley Baquie

August 24

9 am to 3 pm: Bob McCartney
3 pm to 9 pm: Chris Maggio

August 31

9 am to 3 pm: Stephanie and Andrew George
3 to 9 pm: Chris Maggio

Thank You to the volunteers that served as Relief Caretakers during July: Sara Deshler (twice!), Susan & Tove Elfstrom, Hayley Holdridge, Elizabeth Taylor, Eric Aaserud, Kerri Cox, John Cunningham, Ilya Fridman

Labor Day Regatta, September 2, 2-6 pm



On the Island - Waitlisters and Guests are welcome !

Labor Day Regatta !

Monday, September 2
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.



- 2:00 to 4:00 - Games and Races for all ages
- 5:00 p.m. - Dinner and Awards
- Burgers/dogs & fixin's provided by the Island.
- Bring a salad or desert to share if you can.



Information: Mia Holland holland.mia@gmail.com

Addition of Corn Hole Game to Island

By: John Butler



The island now has a beautiful corn hole game. Actually I should amend this because as I write the bean bags are on order. The beautiful wooden hole platforms though are the wonderful construction and sealing work of Rodolfo Castro. David Winer volunteered to check with his neighbor Rodolfo, since he knew he possessed a set. Rather than simply donate them, Rodolfo did a masterful job painting them in island colors and sealing them with roofing cement. By the time you read this, the bean bags should be present and the game ready to go. Thanks to David and Rodolfo for their dedication to the club and stepping up to do this (and to my spouse, Renee, for helping to carry them down to the Island)!

CARETAKER'S LOG

Monday -- July 8, 2019

Water Level at Little Falls: 6.0 Water Temperature: 75

The ferry is closed.

Wow, never seen that before, and I hope I never see it again. The river went up two and a half feet in less than three hours! The canal was so full that it was overflowing down our steps and there was another Niagara-type waterfall flowing over the towpath just a little upstream from here! I pray that the towpath doesn't collapse there.





I guess we won't be getting any visitors for a while, which will be a huge change compared to the super-busy June and early July that we just had. I can't believe how busy it's been. The bell starts ringing early in the day and doesn't stop until the last swimmers leave at dark. Even on the weekdays! Monday last week was actually busier than the Sunday before it! I guess that these new waitlisters are making up for lost time after last year's Island inaccessibility. Also, it's getting hard to distinguish between the members and the waitlisters since the waitlisters have figured out that all you have to do is volunteer to run the ferry for half a day on a Saturday, and Bam, you get a pass to come on another Saturday, or Sunday. What the heck?



Wednesday -- July 10, 2019
Water Level at Little Falls: 4.6 Water Temperature: 80

The ferry is open.

Sunday -- July 21, 2019

Water Level at Little Falls: 3.4 Water Temperature: 90

Big news! I cut some more of that pesky branch that's blocking the ferry from the landing! I know all of the relief caretakers and anyone else running the ferry will be happy to hear that. I was waiting for the river to go down some more before I wrestled with that tree again but I got tired of waiting and decided to try and cut at least a little more off of the limb. One of the members has promised to bring a small chain saw but in the mean time I thought I could make it a little better with just my hand saw. This kind of work isn't exactly in my job description but sometimes things just got to get done, so I do them, because it's the right thing to do. I was able to cut off another 12 inches or so and it really makes a big difference. I still can't believe at how dense that wood was, as soon as I finished cutting that log, it didn't float. It just sank right down to the bottom of the river.



My A/C went out back before July forth. The repair man came out and found that the fan/blower motor was broken. The part was ordered and the A/C should be working again by Monday. It would have been unbearable down here without A/C, but, lucky for me, I was really smart and I didn't discard the old window unit that we used before the renovation. The kitchen is still uninhabitable but that little A/C is working pretty good considering that it's probably been on the Island for over twenty years. Now I can at least sleep at night. The funny thing is that the tiny window unit might keep me cooler than the heat pump, heat-transfer system. When it gets this hot, the heat pump can't really keep up.

I thought that it would be fun to have a sun dial on the Island. Nothing fancy, just a simple dial in the middle of the field. But alas, there is just too much shade and not enough sun for a sun dial to work out here. It might work during the winter months when the leaves are down or maybe we could draw a sun dial on the swimming float.

Wednesday -- July 24, 2019

Water Level at Little Falls: 4.2 Water Temperature: 82

The river went up a foot yesterday and it's still all muddy but the good news is that the temperature of the water dropped down from the record, 94 degrees, back to a cool 82 degrees.

I so glad I got out there and cut that log in the river when I did. the next day the river was so high and muddy I couldn't even see the darn thing. I did go back out later that day to cut the smaller branch by the steps. It was small but very annoying.

I forgot to mention the coconuts, gourds and flowers that were placed on the bank near the ferry steps. Touching to see, but very mysterious. Were they placed here as an offering to a deity or maybe a way to remember someone who has passed? This river is so much to so many.

Wednesday -- July 31, 2019

Water Level at Little Falls: 3.2 Water Temperature: 88

The river level is 3.2 right now. That's lower than it was in all of 2018. The river hasn't been this low since December 2017, and it hasn't been under three feet since the summer of 2017!

I got a good picture of a spicebush swallow-tail butterfly. It's cool to think that it lived out all of its life stages right here on Sycamore Island.

I organized, swept, and scrubbed the screen porch. All of that wet weather last year left a layer of mildew on all of the ceilings and walls in there. The black mildew was so bad that after cleaning it, it looks like I put on a new coat of paint.

The zip line is out of operation. The cable has rusted out and I had to remove the trolley. I informed Dave, who put it up, and I guess we will replace the cable at some point.

I had to exterminate two bee's nest. They were ground nests that were right along the boardwalk. I can tell you first hand that they were a menace.

I also got stung by a wasp when I was working to replace the gutter in back. I'll have to get some wasp spray before I can finish that project.

[Minutes of July 10, 2019, Meeting of the Sycamore Island Club](#)

Attendees: Phoebe Hamill, Gerry Barton, Adele Seifried, Bill Marmon, Lucky Marmon, Star Mitchell, Larry Heilman, Richard Bertaut, Dave Winer, John Noble, John Butler, Ann Marie Cunningham, Dan Jamieson, Joe Hage, Florian Kogelnik

President Richard Bertaut called the meeting to order. Members unanimously approved the June Minutes.

Membership Report: Membership Secretary Anne Waidmann submitted via Pres. Bertaut a clarification of the Senior Membership language used in an amendment to Section 18 of the Sycamore island By-laws and published in the May Minutes.

Rule of 85: A Regular Member in good standing whose age plus years of full dues-paying Regular Membership equals at least 85 may apply in writing to the Membership Secretary for Senior membership. If the member is a couple, then the age to be used for this calculation shall be the age of the older member of the couple. (Deleted next sentence: Such application shall be approved and shall be applicable for the following dues year; Added: Annual dues notices will include the rules for senior membership and show the member's start date.) Senior Membership is to be reviewed every 5 years to determine the effect on the Club of the opportunity to become a Senior Member, and to make appropriate adjustment if the effect on Island membership and use necessitates any change in these provisions.

Members approved the amendment 14 to 1.

So far this year, six persons resigned from membership and two were moved to senior status.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Florian Kogelnik reported that "everything is fine." The biggest expense for June was liability insurance and a new defibrillator. All other items are on target.

Captain's Report: The Captain was not present, but Joe Hage and others brought us up to date. The Club is purchasing new bent iron lift bars for lifting heavy objects such as the docks in and out of the water.

As a result of the previous Monday's flooding, a great deal of debris was stuck to the swim float as well as on the trail just before the bridge. Phoebe Hamill, with the help of a friend, generously toled 4.5 cu. ft. of gravel to fill a dangerous ditch in the trail. Although it is the Park Service's responsibility to maintain the trail, Phoebe received many kudos for shouldering this difficult task. Others commented on the rope at the top of the trail. Larry Heilman feels that it is more problematic than helpful to those ascending and descending the trail. Other people are in favor of keeping this rope handrail in place. It was also reported that there is no info on when the old rail track bridge will be demolished.

According to Caretaker Joe Hage, the status of the towpath and canal sections near to the Island has not yet been determined. There is a great deal of debris there, but no decision will likely be made until the river level goes down.

Some members have expressed a desire to have a game of Corn Hole on the island. John Butler will look online. Dave Winer says one of our members might contribute one. Some noted that the Corn Hole platforms are generally made of thin wood and will quickly deteriorate rapidly on the island. [Editor's Note: Fast action has led to the addition of a Corn Hole game to the Island (see above).]

Joe noted that the building siding outside the men's room walls was rotting. He has undertaken a project to repair this. Also, Joe was successful in cutting back more of the tree section that often blocks the ferry on the canal side, and the remaining wood is more submerged now. He is hoping to get the remaining tree section out with a winch and chain saw; helpers are encouraged to contact Joe about this. There is also a tree near the canoe dock that needs cutting up.

Members noted that visitors and member often fail to sign in when they come over on the ferry.

New Business

The Defibrillator: Club member Dr. Dan Jamieson of Georgetown Hospital instructed members on the use of the defibrillator and gave a comprehensive and clear picture of what is involved. He stressed the importance of having the defibrillator on the island. The longer that a victim of cardiac arrest is left untreated, the less his/her chance of survival. He explained that the equipment is user-friendly, and the user requires no training. It will not allow the user to accidentally shock a person.

The defibrillator should hang in the kitchen where it is easy to access. In the event of an unconscious person who doesn't have pulse, CPR should be started immediately. A member should grab the defibrillator and run to the patient. Remove the patient's clothing around their chest with the help of the scissors included in the AED container. If the chest is wet, use the dry towel that is attached to the AED container to dry the skin. When the chest is bare, remove the protective cover and take out the white adhesive pads, attaching them to the patient according to the drawing on the pads. When you remove the pads, the AED will automatically turn on and give you verbal instructions.

A blinking green light indicates that the battery is working. The battery should be checked every six months or so although it is likely good for five years.

The Solstice Camp Out: Dave Winer said that the event needed to be better publicized. Attendees of this year's party were about six families with children. He remembered that in previous years, many members attended both in the evening and at the big breakfast the next day. It was agreed by the members that this year's Solstice camp out was a great renewal of a beloved island tradition.

Managing the Membership Data Base: Tryon Wells, who has been our valiant webmaster for years, is moving the club's data base to a more reliable hosting company. Hopefully, it will make it easier to notify members of important island happenings on short notice. The "blasts" that Tryon has always sent require a great deal of time because of anti-spam precautions mandated by the company. Hopefully, this problem will be solved in the next few months.

The August 14th meeting will be on the Island at 8:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Lucky Marmon
Co-Recording Secretary.



Islander Editor: Mark Friedrichs; suggestions or contributions of content or photos welcome to mark.d.friedrichs@gmail.com
