



Our Float Home Community

by Sheryl Puckett

Ever wonder what it's like living in a float home? While the wise man might scorn those who don't build their house on stone, Bayview float home owners trumpet the virtues of living in a house with no foundation whatsoever.

Float home owners are a unique group of home owners due to the fact that there are so few of them. Estimates are somewhere between 95 to 100 float homes in Bayview. The Float homes of Bayview have a long and storied history. This personal account of the advantages and challenges adds to the story.

Dave and Teri Tomberg sadly lost their lakefront home to the Cape Horn Fire which led them to become float home owners. "We love the feeling of being so intimately close to the water. We have immediate access to our boat. We have no garden to tend or grass to mow. We like the gentle rock and roll" says Dave who's spent the last 40 summers in Bayview.

Asking Dave to name a few challenges to living in a float home he says, "Thunderstorms can be intimidating. When otters swim under the house or raccoons scamper on the logs the dog goes crazy."

Judith Nelson lives full time at Harborview Marina. She moved into her float home February 2015. Judith recalls, "My dream was to live on the water. I didn't want to live in salt water because it eats everything. Every week for three months I looked on MLS and this home, I ended buying, kept showing up, so I took it as a sign that I needed to call the real estate agent and come see it."

Judith didn't know anyone when she moved here. According to her, there was a family joke that she wanted to roll out of bed every morning and swim with the otters. The first day she came to look at the float house, the otters had gotten into the boat house part and made a mess "so I figured I was actually going to be living with the otters".

"I look outside and it's so beautiful. This is the best neighborhood I ever lived in. Recently another float home lost a chain and there were 8 people all trying to get the chain hooked backed up. People are very polite. I feel perfectly safe here and love the community."

The day of the Labor Day storm, Judy and neighbors closed all the umbrellas standing up and tied down the tables and chairs. It didn't matter whose stuff it was, they help each other.

According to Judith the biggest challenges to living in a float home are "I don't have a garage" and "every time I go to the grocery store, I'm opposed to taking more than one trip down to my float home with my dock buggy. It will either stay in my car or fit in my buggy. Also, I'm always considering weight. You wouldn't buy heavy furniture. You have to be aware of this."

Despite the challenges, Judith says, "Yes, I would recommend float home living to others. It's a unique adventure in living. I have all the amenities I need."

Z's first experience with float homes was finding out that no one can get a loan from a bank or credit union. Z and Paul Ziaya are also full time residents living in a float home. According to Z, "The State of Idaho only approves 200 float homes in the entire state. You cannot build a new one unless you demolish the old homes."

Her best experience was opening a hatch in the laundry room and seeing a large bass looking back at her. The other advantages are crystal clear: "No lawn to mow, no Fall leaves to pick up, which gives me more 'free' time". We have a million dollar view, secure entry gates, as well as close to town to walk to the Merc and Post Office. If you want to downsize, this is the way to go. And we have the states' largest swimming pool."

"You cannot have a TV dish put on your roof due to the wave action interfering with the receiver" says Z referring to a challenge.

The last ten years Bayview float homes have undergone a facelift, creating a quaint and desirable community.

Some Bayview Float Home Facts:

- Float homes began appearing in the early 1900's.
- They originally were fishing shacks.
- By 1970 float homes appeared in all five marinas.
- In 1991 it was mandated to connect to the sewer system.
- In 1995 the Float Home Association was founded to safeguard float homes from unfair moorage increases.
- Each float home pays yearly \$250 to the State of Idaho for being on submerged land.
- 2001 Boileau's Marina fire initiated fire prevention measures.



Farragut, a Park for All Seasons and Many Reasons

by Pat Pfremmer, Bayview Resident

Last month's Shore Lines' article, *Rocks Gonna Roll*, was critical of cairns. Quite literally, I am now seeing cairns in Farragut Park being demolished. I would like to take this opportunity to offer a different point of view.

For those who may be unfamiliar with cairns, suffice it to say they are piles of stacked rocks in various forms. They represent a very noble, specific purpose from ancient times to the present. Some cultures used them to mark graves, or to express spiritual connections; others to provide navigation aids, to mark trails, or to celebrate astronomical events. Today, we see many cairns literally sprouting up along roadways, trails, and gardens as a form of artistic expression.

Is there controversy over creating cairns? Yes, there are as many views on this subject as there are flat rocks. The author of September's article clearly articulated an opinion of cairn building in wilderness areas. Then she mistakenly compared Farragut Park to a wilderness.

Idahoans know the difference between wilderness and a park. In all fairness, if a person comes to visit from an out-of-state metropolitan area, they might envision Farragut Park as a wilderness, but if you think about it logically, our park is an area that has been seriously disturbed by human occupation. When it was a Naval Training Station in WW II, it was the largest city in Idaho. Today it welcomes over half a million visitors annually with numerous attractions, including campsites, a gun range, disc golf, a museum, and 40 miles of well-marked trails.

I am not advocating building cairns in wilderness areas, I am of the belief that one should make the smallest footprint possible, leave no indication that you have been there. But I do **not** think the ecosystem is going to suffer because a few very patient, creative souls endeavor to create a personal totem in a park or along the roadway.

I admire the ingenuity and delicate balancing act of this three-dimensional art form. I take pictures of the freeform stone sculptures, just as I try to capture the beauty of an early morning sunrise at MacDonald's Viewpoint.

A park is a place for recreating and sharing an outdoor experience. I have seen Farragut visitors practice qigong, paint en plein air, celebrate weddings, ride horses and mountain bikes, and construct cairns.

It might benefit some people to simply relax, go fly a kite or take a hike. Just saying.



For The Love of Trees

by Sheryl Puckett

They say only God can make a tree but when it comes to pruning an arborist is your best bet. Matt Grey-Trask has been in the trees for 25+ years because of his love for trees.



Matt lives in Athol and is the owner and operator of **MGT Professional Tree Care, LLC**. He has the education and credentials to diagnose your trees. Matt is ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified. This means he still takes courses and seminars to maintain his credentials.

According to Matt, "What sets me apart from anyone who may cut down a tree would likely be my knowledge of the proper needs of each tree species. This is necessary in pruning during certain times of the year and the structural integrity of the trees long term. I also have years of climbing and rigging experience that can be vital on many situations."

MGT Professional Tree Care, LLC offers: tree pruning, removals, stump grinding, consulting, forest management plans, fire safety plans, and arborist reports. Matt is licensed and insured and says, "It's the only type one should hire for work on your property."

"Tree health and safety is very important and with proper management trees can be both beneficial and an asset to properties for many years. Proper management is ongoing" says Matt.

Matt is also very community minded. He recently helped Athol Elem. 6th graders with a community service project cleaning up the trees/brush around the school. Thanks Matt!

Contact MGT Professional Tree Care, LLC at 208-714-9414.



On behalf of the Bayview Community Council, we want to thank all who participated in the 2020 Community Council Yard Sale. There were over 21 individual yard sales. This event continues to thrive every year!

There are too many individuals to list to say thank you for donating items to the Council's sale. We had a most successful day and will be able to fund our scholarship another year plus help fund future community projects.



Oktoberfest cancelled this year