



Riverlovers R Currents

Volume 19, Number 4, April 2006

Riverlovers Doings

April is devoted to final planning, at our April 7th Potluck, for the ShadFest, the big Riverlovers event of the year, which is set for Sunday, May 21st. Come join us on Friday, April 7th at 6:30pm at the Croton Point Nature Center and help us pin down who is doing what at what time. Even if it's impossible for you to be there in person, give Robin a call so we know we can count on you. We need *everybody!*

After we recover from that, we'll have a pre-Revival Potluck on June 16th, a family seining evening in July with Scott Williamson, and a Hudson River School art slide show and discussion with Cynthia Andersen in August, so mark your calendars and plan on participating in these Riverlovers events.

The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse in April is on Saturday, April 8th at 7:30 and features the legendary Gordon Bok with his rich collection of songs of the sea. Come early at 6:45 for the participatory songfest, bring your friends and enjoy a great night of entertainment. See the calendar on page three for more details.

Don't forget that Earth Day Cleanup in Croton is on Saturday, April 29th from 9am to 12 noon. Volunteers will gather at Senesqua Park and will concentrate on the area along the river north of the park. They will also send a few smaller crews to Black Rock Park and south of the Croton train station along the Croton River, where the canoe launch is.

Jon Goplerud (who has moved to Boston) obtained a Chase Bank grant again, and the coordinators for the clean-up are Riverlovers' Gunnar Andersen and Joe Biber of the Croton Conservation Advisory Council. Riverlovers is pleased to be a co-sponsor for this annual event in our own backyard.

Court Upholds State Regulation

A state appellate court has upheld a key New York environmental regulation that allows the state to regulate water intake at the Indian Point nuclear power plant. The court rejected an attempt by the plant's owner and operator, Entergy, to overturn a key state clean water regulation.

According to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, "This is a huge victory for the Hudson River and other New York waters that suffer damage when power plants and other industrial users withdraw massive amounts of water. Thanks to the existence of technological alternatives, power plants can cool their facilities without using vast quantities of water and killing billions of fish."

This ruling is critical to upholding New York's ability to protect the Hudson River and other water bodies. Entergy withdraws billions of gallons of water from the river every day to cool its two nuclear reactors. More than a billion fish are killed each year when they are sucked out of the river and into the power plant's cooling systems.

Indian Point uses 700 billion gallons of water from the Hudson every year—more than the volume of the entire river,

from the Battery in Manhattan to the Troy federal dam. The peak withdrawal of 2.5 billion gallons a day is twice the daily drinking water usage of New York City and Westchester combined.

Entergy had tried to argue that the regulations were invalid. They claimed that there was no public hearing on one element of the regulation, but this was rejected unanimously by the five-judge panel. Some folks will try just about anything, no matter how frivolous, to avoid their responsibilities. A fast buck is obviously more important.



Listening to Jonathan Kruk's storytelling at the February EagleFest, before feasting on Riverlovers' bread and soup luncheon fare. Photo by Beverly Dyckman

Clearwater's Hudson River Revival

Clearwater's music and environmental festival is once again at Westchester's Croton Point Park on the banks of the Hudson River on Father's Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 17th and 18th. Advance festival tickets are now on sale!

You can order them *NOW* online and save at: <http://www.clearwater.org>.

This year Clearwater celebrates 40 years of environmental action, education and music. "The Festival That Saved A River" has been at the forefront of the nation's environmental movement in our struggle for a clean river. Inspired by a desire of singer/activist Pete Seeger to clean up the Hudson River, the Festival today attracts thousands of visitors for a weekend offering the best in music, dance, family fun and children's activities, crafts, storytelling, and environmental education.

Lending a Hand

Once again the Festival is looking for 900 dedicated individuals to volunteer their time, energy and talent to help stage the festival. Volunteers are an integral part of the Festival experience. There are numerous ways for people of all ages to lend a hand, both before and during the event. Volunteer responsibilities include transporting performers; preparing and serving food for performers and other volunteers; setting up the sound stages, booths and displays; supervising children's activities; working in the hospitality field tent, information booth or reception area; staffing the Festival's gift shop; selling festival tickets; and providing pre-festival office support at the Poughkeepsie office.

Volunteers will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and applications must be received by May 12th. For more information about volunteering at this year's Clearwater Festival, visit: <http://www.clearwater.org> or contact Jen Rubbo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 845-454-7673 x123. You can also email her at: volcoord@clearwater.org.

The Public's Right To Know

A dozen state Attorneys General have called on the EPA to withdraw proposed regulations that would sharply reduce the amount of information available to the public about toxic chemicals released by industry in communities all across the nation. To his credit, New York's Eliot Spitzer has been a leader in organizing this effort.

In the detailed written comments submitted to challenge the legality of the proposed EPA regulation changes that would scale back the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), Spitzer said: "The Toxics Release Inventory has been extremely successful in raising public awareness about chemical hazards in communities from coast to coast. Public disclosure has proven to be a strong incentive for polluters to reduce their use of toxic chemicals."

There is absolutely no good reason to cut back on this reporting. The cost of reporting these releases is quite low, and the cost to the public of not reporting them is unacceptably high. Communities have a right to know if they are being exposed to such hazards as PCB's, mercury, lead and other toxic substances.

EPA's denial of the public's right to know smacks of environmental racism, since the negative impact will most likely be greatest in low-income areas, where chemical plants are often located. No one should be able to hide their pollution, and the federal government has no business helping to cover up this information vital to the health of American communities.

The computerized federal TRI database provides information on the type and quantity of toxic chemicals released into the air, soil and water. The law was signed by President Reagan, and data have been collected and made available since 1987, from information submitted annually by industrial facilities.

Three significant changes are being proposed: (1) raising the baseline reporting threshold for chemical releases from 500 pounds to 5,000 pounds; (2) reducing the reporting for some of the most dangerous chemicals, including lead, mercury and PCB's; and (3) cutting the requirement to report toxic chemical releases from once a year to only once every two years.

As an example of the harm that would be caused, one Tonawanda neighborhood with 45,000 people would have releases of 8100 pounds of neurotoxic chemicals, 3100 pounds of respiratory irritants, 2300 pounds of chemicals that cause child developmental problems, and 650 pounds of chemicals that can cause blood disorders. All could go unreported under the proposed changes. Whose side is this administration on?

The Benefits Of Native Plants—IV

Native plants have deep, thirsty roots that help retain water on your property and filter out pollutants. Use these natives to create attractive, low-maintenance garden borders around lawns, and to help stabilize soils and prevent erosion, which is why they're a good choice for steep slopes and berms.

Reducing water runoff from yards is a key step in protecting water quality. Water from lawns and gardens often contains fertilizers, soils and debris, and when polluted runoff enters storm drains and watercourses, it is discharged unfiltered into water storage sites. We can protect our drinking water resources by keeping our waterways cleaner and healthier.

If you have a pond or stream, it is especially important to prevent runoff. You can create a native plant buffer along the water's edge, and it should be at least 20 feet wide. Narrow access paths can wind down to the water, if desired. It's important not to apply fertilizers, pesticides or fungicides in the buffer area. Many Towns in this area have an ordinance establishing a buffer zone and regulating activities within this area.

Plants that we call "native" have evolved in a particular region over thousands of years, and have adapted to local soil, moisture and weather conditions. They often evolve together with other plants and animals in a community where the "natives" provide food and habitat for a variety of native wildlife species such as songbirds, butterflies and small animals.

Cultivating native plants helps protect the biodiversity of our area, which is important to ecosystem health. Diverse plant populations are less susceptible to catastrophic devastation by diseases and pests, and they support a wider range of wildlife as well, which adds to our enjoyment of our natural surroundings. Using native plants thus makes sense in a lot of ways.



What's Happening When

Saturdays – **Farmers Winter Market at the Beacon Sloop Club** every Saturday from 10-3pm at the clubhouse. Fresh eggs, mushrooms, root crops, smoked meats and fish, cheeses, breads, jams, jellies and many other local items available for purchase. Come sit by the fire and have a cup of warm cider.

April 1, Sat, 9am-4pm, **digital photography workshop at Nature Center with Rob Dublin.** Learn ins & outs while “shooting” scenes & denizens of Croton Park. Bring camera, lunch & water. Info: 862-5297.

April 7, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck & final ShadFest planning meeting.** Plan to show up & make commitments for time slots and tasks. At Croton Point Nature Center. Info: 271-6088.

April 8, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse features the legendary Gordon Bok** with his rich collection of songs of the sea, at the new (fast becoming old) location. Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains (between North St & Mamaroneck Ave). Tickets \$17.50, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or call (914) 242-0374.

April 9, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Open House** at the Croton Point Nature Center. Archaeological exhibits on display.

April 15, Sat, 10am, **Mud season is the perfect time for tracking.** Learn to identify wild animal tracks, and follow them from the Croton Point Nature Center into the woods. Info: 862-5297.

April 21, Fri, 8pm, **Paramount Center for the Arts presents Sweet Honey in the Rock**, Grammy Award-winning African-American female a cappella ensemble. 1008 Brown St, Peekskill. Tickets \$35-\$40. Info: (914) 739-2333 or paramountcenter.org.

April 22, Sat, 10am, **Potpourri of Wildflowers at Croton Point Nature Center.** A morning stroll along Hudson River trails, looking for common and rare wildflowers. Wear sturdy shoes for steep trail sections. Info: 862-5297.

April 23, Sun, **County Pitch In For Parks** volunteer program to get ready for spring & summer season. Info: 862-5297.

April 29, Sat, 9am-12, **Croton Earth Day Clean-Up at Senasqua Park** & points north, train station canoe launch area & Black Rock Park. Co-sponsored by Riverlovers & Croton Conservation Advisory Council. Info: Call Gunnar Andersen at 271-3830.

May 21, Sun, 11-5pm, **Riverlovers Sixteenth Annual ShadFest**, Croton Point Park. Plan to help make this the biggest, best, most rewarding ShadFest ever! Sign up for your part now.

June 17 & 18, Sat & Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point Park.** Mark the dates on your calendar, and order your discounted tickets now for the big festival of the year.



*Here's how to join Riverlovers...
(the local Clearwater Sloop Club in the Northern
Westchester-Putnam County area)*

Application for Riverlovers Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Renewal— New— Additional Contribution \$ _____

Please send check (\$15 individual, \$20 family) for 2006 to:
Riverlovers, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

Yes! I Also Want To Join Clearwater

Please sign me up in the following membership category:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="radio"/> Individual | \$40 | <input type="radio"/> Mariner | \$500 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | \$55 | <input type="radio"/> Sailing-Master | \$1000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Contributor | \$100 | <input type="radio"/> Benefactor | \$5000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Sponsor | \$200 | <input type="radio"/> Student | \$10 |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please include check payable to Clearwater, or charge by credit card

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Visa | <input type="radio"/> MC | <input type="radio"/> Discover | <input type="radio"/> Amex |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|

Account No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Mail To: Clearwater, Inc.
112 Little Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Your Clearwater membership gets you the *Navigator* and other benefits, along with being part of Riverlovers' “parent” organization representing individuals and Sloop Clubs up and down the Hudson Valley “working for the River.”

Riverlovers - Who We Are

Riverlovers, Inc. is a chartered Sloop Club of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., an environmental non-profit membership organization whose most visible symbol is its member-owned and operated 106-ft. sloop "Clearwater." As a local affiliate, Riverlovers' purposes are:

- Maintaining an active Sloop Club in the Northern Westchester-Putnam County area;
- Meeting the needs and interests of individuals through a variety of interest groups, including monthly Potluck dinner meetings with varied programs, environmental education and awareness, boats and sailing, concerts and festivals;
- Organizing trips and recreational activities, seminars and workshops, learn-to-sail programs and Clearwater visits;
- Research, education and action to protect our rivers and our environment;
- Working for access and effective land use along the Hudson River and its tributaries;
- Boating projects on the Hudson River, to reach out to the surrounding community for educational and recreational purposes.

We invite you to join us. Contact our interest group coordinators, or write to Riverlovers, Inc., P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Together we can do a lot!

Riverlovers Officers

Co-President:	Eric Marshall	827-3696
Co-President:	Kate Marshall	827-3696
Vice Pres. (programs):	Robin Fox	271-6088
Vice Pres. (membership):	Gunnar Andersen	271-3830
Secretary:	??	??
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396



Interest Group Coordinators

Interest Group	Coordinator	Phone
Boats	Jon Lambert	
Book Club	Daria Gregg	944-8396
Envir. Education		
Membership	Gunnar Andersen	271-3830
Newsletter	Bill Flank	238-8240
Newsletter Distribution	Cynthia Andersen	271-3830
Outreach	Jan Ravase	739-0640
Photographer/Archivist	Beverly Dyckman	739-5057
Potluck	Robin Fox	271-6088
Publicity		
Riverwatch	Art Ansel	271-5316
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

Newsletter Submissions

Please send news articles and other items of interest to Riverlovers Currents, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Include your name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted on request.

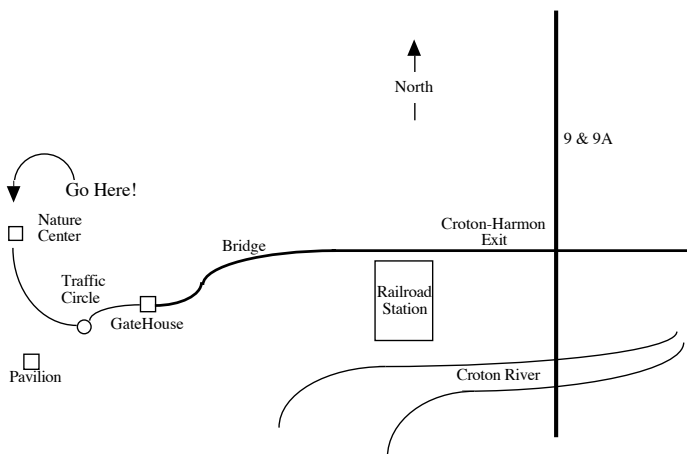
Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
 April Newsletter Contributors: Beverly Dyckman, Eliot Spitzer

Lay the groundwork at ShadFest Action Potluck



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285
 Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



6:30pm, Friday April 7
Croton Point Nature Center