



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 4, April 2007

Riverlovers Doings

Our March 9th Potluck focused on preparations for the ShadFest on May 20th that will involve every one of us, and then some, for our biggest event of the year. We got a lot of things assigned, but there are still a number of items and time slots to fill. Now's the time to say you'll be there! Incidentally, while we made our plans, we noted that Jan, Beverly and Warren all shared end-of-winter birthdays. We wish them a milestone-marking congratulations.

The next Monthly Potluck, on April 20, the *third* Friday of the month will feature a screening of "*Swim for the River*", a documentary film about Christopher Swain, who was the first person to swim the entire length of the Hudson River. As the film traces his journey down the river, from the pristine waters of Lake Tear in the Clouds past factories and power plants to New York harbor, it recounts the history of the Hudson and its environmental battles, many of which are still active.

We also see how ordinary citizens can and do make a difference through the choices they make that affect the environment, and by joining together around a common cause. Our old friend Stan Weingast will lead a discussion after the film. The meeting starts with a potluck dinner, so please bring a covered dish with enough to share.

The next Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse on April 14th will feature the sophisticated, funny and entertaining Lou and Peter Berryman. They're a great act, and really worth seeing and hearing. These evenings, which include an opening singalong starting at 6:45, are lots of fun. Bring your friends, as we do, and join in the festivities. You might discover something new, and you won't be disappointed!

And on Saturday, April 28, Riverlovers are again co-sponsoring the Croton Earth Day Cleanup. Meet at Senasqua Park at 9am to get an assignment. Act locally and pitch in to make the planet a better place.

Finally, just to give you all a heads-up for the future so you can mark your calendars, the Riverlovers Sail aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, July 15. For all you hard-working Riverlovers, especially our dedicated ShadFest volunteers, this is a glorious way to say "thank you" and help you enjoy our river.

We Don't Really Need Indian Point!

That's what the National Academy of Sciences report says. It shows that the region's energy demands can be met without relying on Indian Point at all.

The release of the report was announced by Congresswoman Nita Lowey and makes the point that we can continue to meet New York State's energy needs without those nuclear plants. Lowey had secured a million dollars in federal funds for the National Academy to identify alternatives for replacing the power generated by the nuclear facility, and the report strengthens Lowey's call for decommissioning Indian Point in the interest of safety and security.

"While I believe that Indian Point must be decommissioned to protect the safety and security of our region, I also recognize the responsibility to ensure the reliability of our power grid," said Lowey. She announced completion of this authoritative study, concluding that we can meet the region's increasing energy demands without relying on Indian Point. By conservation and efficiency, and modest new generation and transmission improvements, we can replace the power produced by Indian Point and finally close this facility without the lights going off and without dramatic price increases.

More than four years after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, health, safety and security problems continue at the nuclear facility. Widespread failures of the emergency siren system, leaks of dangerous radioactive materials, and an inadequate emergency response plan put the safety and security of our communities at risk. The "evacuation plan" is almost universally recognized as a grim joke, but it's still invoked as a fig-leaf justification for continued operation.

The NAS study describes a comprehensive plan for developing a total of 5300 megawatts of additional energy resources over the next ten years. This will both meet increasing energy needs and replace the 2000 megawatts of energy produced by Indian Point. The report also concluded that there are no technological impediments to replacing Indian Point's electricity. It is possible to reduce demand by about 4000 megawatts by 2015 through a combination of strategies, some of which are very easily attainable.

If Indian Point were closed, wholesale energy prices would rise only slightly, perhaps only a few dollars per fam-

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Pay your dues now—support our river! \$15 Individual & \$20 Family

Art History Series: The Hudson River School Of Painting II

by Cynthia Andersen

Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of Painting, was never satisfied being, as he called it, "...a mere leaf painter." He became part of an artistic fraternity of artists in which landscape served as a major focus of concern. It included writers like Washington Irving, the nature poet William Cullen Bryant and James Fenimore Cooper, all living in New York City. Cole is the first artist whose works were visual analogues to their writings. From the beginning of his career, Cole had tried to increase the importance of a landscape by inserting an event from history, such as in *Gelyna* (The Battle of Ticonderoga, 1826), an episode in literature, such as in Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans* (1827), or a religious passage from the Bible, as in *Landscape Composition: St. John in the Wilderness* (1827).

Though his subtexts, whether historical, literary or religious, varied, Cole's technique for conveying the sublime in his landscapes remained consistent throughout his career. His artistic vocabulary included anthropomorphic (lifelike) weather-blasted tree trunks, trailing mists, an impressive variation of mass (light and dark contrasts), and theatrical lighting, all carried out with a neoclassical concern for highly detailed draftsmanship. The term "sublime" describes an imaginative response to immensity or boundlessness, a "delightful horror", if you will, when faced by phenomena of great magnitude, such as standing atop the mountains looking out over a boundless vista.

Much of the landscape painting in America before Cole was pretty, but pallid, softly painted with imperceptible brushwork, giving the work a blurry, sentimental cast. Cole changed all that and gave landscape an exuberance and power through the use of strong color, sharp outlines, emotional, painterly brush strokes and a conviction of importance.

To explore nature, Cole introduced the Hudson River School method of rambling endlessly through forests and mountains in search of new vistas, fine trees, hidden lakes and surprising falls of water. He made black and white sketches of everything he saw and recorded the colors in words. He wrote that "I have never succeeded in painting scenes immediately on returning home from them. I must wait for time to throw a veil over the common details, leaving the most essential parts."

Although Cole loved the Hudson Valley, like most American artists of his day he made the obligatory trip to Europe to study the art there. The following is the poem *To Cole, the Painter, Departing for Europe* by William Cullen Bryant, written in 1829:

Thine eyes shall see the light of distant skies:
Yet, Cole! Thy heart shall bear to Europe's strand
A living image of our own bright land,
Such as upon thy glorious canvas lies.
Lone lakes—savannahs where the bison roves
Rocks rich with summer garlands—solemn streams
Skies where the desert eagle wheels and screams
Spring bloom and autumn blaze of boundless groves.

Fair scenes shall greet thee where thou goest—fair
But different—everywhere the trace of men.
Paths, homes, graves, ruins, from the lowest glen
To where life shrinks from the fierce Alpine air.
Gaze on them, till the tears shall dim thy sight,
But keep that earlier, wilder image bright.

In Part 3 of this series I will discuss what Cole saw and learned in Europe. We will learn that Cole did heed Bryant's words: "Fair scenes shall greet thee.../Gaze on them.../But keep that earlier, wilder image bright." In his short lifetime (1801-1848) Cole launched the revolution that gave America its indigenous painting school, expressing in art what the Republic's citizens felt in politics, society and nature.

Global Warming And The President

Last month, for the first time, President Bush acknowledged the threat of global warming during his State of the Union speech. He also presented a plan to increase fuel economy for cars that, if properly implemented, could offer serious cuts in the amount of global warming pollution generated in the United States.

Unfortunately, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the president's proposal to reduce U.S. oil dependence doesn't go far enough to protect against dangerous global warming. We must set an overall cap on heat-trapping emissions for the entire economy—addressing transportation, electricity, and other sources of pollution. Although the president mentioned "changing the way America generates electric power," including advances in solar and wind energy, he stopped short of advocating for sensible legislation that would require utilities to produce 20 percent of the nation's electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Furthermore, the president failed to address the fact that technological advances need to be based on unbiased, independent science. America can not effectively address the serious consequences of global warming if our scientists are being stifled by political interference, as has been amply documented.

While the State of the Union included some positive rhetoric about providing America with the means to build a cleaner, more secure future, the president and Congress must work together to ensure his words become action.

Climate Global warming is the greatest environmental challenge of our time. The science is clear and many of the solutions are at hand. To ensure we leave our children and grandchildren a safe climate, Congress and the president need to work together to establish near-term cuts in global warming pollution and set long-term emission reduction targets for avoiding the worst effects of global warming.

Clean Vehicles The president's proposals for car fuel economy standards and aggressive biofuel and "alternative fuel" targets—if properly implemented—could sharply reduce oil dependence and global warming pollution. His proposed support for plug-in hybrid development could help lead to even greater efficiency in both plug-in and non-plug-in models. Although serious challenges remain for turning

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What's Happening When

Sundays at the Beacon Sloop Club, **Farmers' Market** 10am-4pm. Local cheeses, eggs, pasta, bread, lamb & mushroom spring rolls.

April 6, Fri, 7:30pm, **Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting**, preceded by potluck at 6:30pm. At Beacon Sloop Club Building, across from Beacon train station. Info: www.beaconsloopclub.org.

April 13, Fri, 8:30pm, **MainStage Coffee House Foundation presents Guy Clark with Slaid Cleaves** at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$35. Info: 800-595-4849 or www.themainstage.org.

April 14, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents Lou & Peter Berryman** at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, 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 19, Thurs, 7:30pm, **Philipstown Depot Theatre presents The Greencards**, hi-energy acoustic bluegrass music by immigrants to Texas. Tickets \$15. Info: 845-424-3900.

April 20, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Screening of documentary "Swim For The River," followed by discussion led by Stan Weingast. See page 1 story for details.

April 28, Sat, 8pm, **Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill presents Gordon Lightfoot**. Tickets \$45 & \$65. Info: 877-840-0457 or www.paramountcenter.org.

May 5, Sat, 8pm, **MainStage Coffee House Foundation presents Greg Brown** at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$35. Info: 800-595-4849 or www.themainstage.org.

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these goals into reality, we hope to see real progress with the new Congress.

Clean Energy Although President Bush paid lip service to clean electricity technologies, he failed to support critical renewable energy legislation requiring utilities to produce a specified percentage of electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar. We need to get the new Congress to pass strong national renewable energy policy this winter.

Scientific Integrity Although the president addressed the need for "technological breakthroughs...to confront the serious challenge of global climate change," developing that technology and understanding the true scope of this challenge requires independent science free from political interference. The Union of Concerned Scientists will testify before Congress to help advance meaningful reforms that will restore scientific integrity to federal policy-making.

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ily per month. While Entergy claims to be a low-cost producer, consumers pay the same price for power from Indian Point as that produced by any other plant. The only one to benefit is—you guessed it—Entergy, and that's in large part due to saving money on safety, security and maintenance.

We have a definitive plan now, and we need the will and the leadership to decommission this ticking time-bomb. It's about time we got serious.

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 2007 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

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President: | Gunnar Andersen | 432-3112 |
| Vice Pres. (programs): | Robin Fox | 271-6088 |
| Co-Secretary: | Cynthia Andersen | 432-3112 |
| Co-Secretary: | Leesa Thompson | 528-0098 |
| Treasurer: | Daria Gregg | 944-8396 |
| President-Emeritus | Eric Marshall | 827-3696 |



Interest Group Coordinators

| Interest Group | Coordinator | Phone |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Envir. Education | Bill Flank | 238-8240 |
| Membership | Gunnar Andersen | 432-3112 |
| Newsletter | Bill Flank | 238-8240 |
| Newsletter Distribution | Cynthia Andersen | 432-3112 |
| Outreach | | |
| Photographer/Archivist | Beverly Dyckman | 739-5057 |
| Potluck | Robin Fox | 271-6088 |
| Publicity | | |
| ShadFest | Robin Fox | 271-6088 |

Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

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: Cynthia Andersen, Gunnar Andersen, Bill Flank

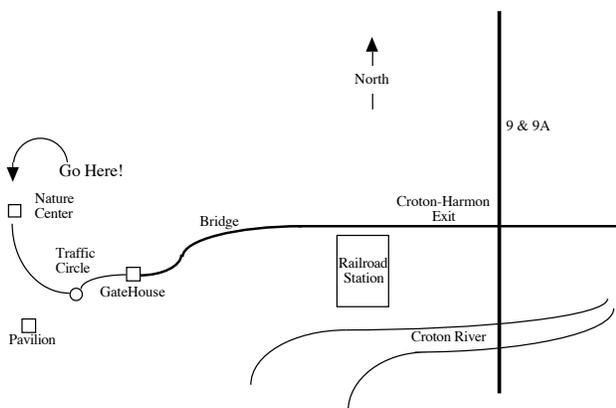
Third Friday Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and "Swim for the River" film



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, April 20, 2007
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center