



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 21, Number 4, April 2008

## Riverlovers Doings

It was a great idea to have a river study group in which individuals will research an aspect of the river and present it to the membership at a Potluck meeting. Following Cynthia's March presentation on estuaries, on April 11<sup>th</sup> the Riverlovers Study Group presents "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Plastics Recycling." Bill Flank will talk about the basics of recycling, including what those numbers mean in the triangles on all the plastic bottles and containers, how they are made, and what happens to the recycled plastics.

We're planning to arrange tours of the county incinerator plant at Charles Point and the Millwood water treatment plant. We're also getting a date sometime in July for a seining session at Mothers Lap. These things require planning and a fair amount of participation by members, so stay tuned for more details and check the Riverlovers website at [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org).

We've been talking a lot at recent Potlucks about the ShadFest, which will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and Chris Letts called the other day to say that THERE WILL BE SHAD for him to cook, and for Riverlovers to cook as well. The run has started down the coast, and his supplier is already filleting fish. As usual, Beacon Sloop Club will be bringing their solar trailer and their famous chili as well.

We are soliciting vendors, lining up entertainment, and getting everything ready for the big event of the year for Riverlovers. So, reserve that date: MAY 18 for the Riverlovers Eighteenth Annual SHADFEST!! And call Robin to let her know what you'll be doing to help make our biggest event of the year a success.

While you're at it, save June 21 and 22 for Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival, and sign up with Gunnar to help staff the Riverlovers table in the Sloop Club tent. We need a crew of volunteers to take turns for this outreach effort! Not that a bribe is being offered to anyone, but the Riverlovers annual sail aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is set for Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9pm, sailing out of Peekskill. It goes without saying that reservation preference is given to our volunteers at ShadFest and Revival. Be part of it all!

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

## Walkabout Coffeehouse Notes

In April the Coffeehouse will welcome The Ebony Hillbillies, based in New York and one of the last black string bands in America. They'll be performing a rich cultural legacy of old and new music in grassroots style.

A popular Coffeehouse feature, Phil Ochs Night, will again be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. His protest songs will be remembered, and new music in the Phil Ochs spirit will be presented by Magpie, Kim and Reggie Harris, John Flynn, Greg Greenway and others.

Sing along in the informal Teachabouts at 6:45pm, prior to the 7:30pm concerts, at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue in White Plains. There's plenty of free parking, and lots of fun. You and your friends can share some refreshments, enjoy yourselves, and support Clearwater all at the same time. Join us!

## Lead, Science, Politics And The EPA

In reviewing the national air quality standard for lead, the EPA has now said it might consider revoking the current regulation. This is the first use of the Administration's new process for reviewing and setting health-based air quality standards.

In a letter to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, the agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee criticized even considering elimination of a national limit for lead in air. The science advisors termed this as scientifically indefensible, and said it should not even be raised as an option by the agency.

The advisory group said this new procedure diminishes the role of agency scientists and boosts political influence on health decisions. According to the science advisors, the document produced by the new process lacks sufficient detail for the public to understand or evaluate how the Administration will use scientific data in deciding whether to keep, reject or tighten the lead standard. An adequate basis for making sound policy decisions is lacking, in the words of the scientists.

It's hard to believe the Bush Administration would leave everyone unprotected from this potent neurotoxin, but that's what they're trying to do. It's not even an act of omission—they want to undo protections we already have. That's irresponsibility at the highest level!

## Art History Series

### The Hudson River School Of Painting—V

#### The Second Generation Of Hudson River School Painters: Asher B. Durand—Part II

by Cynthia Andersen

In 1845, the year Durand painted *The Beeches*, he was elected president of the National Academy of Design. During his presidency he wrote "Letters on Landscape Painting," which were published in *The Crayon*, an art journal which became a guide for landscape painters. Durand believed that the artist should hide his presence by not calling attention to, among other aspects, the odd compositional schemes we see in Cole's paintings. We see in *The Beeches* that Durand pulled away from Cole's drama to a greater naturalism. One of the ways he accomplished this was through composition. When compared to a Cole painting executed near the same time as *The Beeches*, such as *The Ox-Bow*, 1846 [Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York], we see that the composition of a Cole painting is done on a horizontal plane in order to encompass a more panoramic view of landscape, which augments the idea of the sublime. Durand, however, hones in on individual trees and he employs a vertical format for *The Beeches* which measures 60 3/8 x 48 1/8 inches and thereby heightens the effect of being in direct contact with the trees. We do not view the scene from a distance as in Cole's work. The closeness of the view gives us, the viewer, the sense of being in direct contact with nature; there is a sensual physicality of experiencing the tree. For Cole a diminutive human figure is often placed as a foil to measure against a huge vista and enhance the sense of the sublime. Durand often included human figures in his work, such as the shepherd, to illustrate man's place in a comforting universe.

Cole seems to achieve lights and shadow of a painting in a manner more emotional than natural, light was to serve sentiment. Cole did not paint *en plein air*, as did Durand. Cole was a prolific writer and we learn from him in a letter he wrote to Durand in 1838 "...I never succeed in painting scenes, no matter how beautiful immediately on returning from them. I must wait for time to draw a veil over the common details, the un-essential parts, which shall leave the great features, whether the beautiful or the sublime dominant in the mind." Durand, on the other hand, may have been the first American artist, in the early 1830s, to adopt a systematic practice of making studies of oil directly from nature. Novak tells us that Durand broke from clichés of Hudson River School formulae and "established himself quite firmly as a realist, who was acutely conscious of objective truths of plain-air reality."

When Cole died of pneumonia in 1848, Durand painted *Kindred Spirits* (1848, *New York Public Library, New York*) as a memorial celebrating the relationship that Thomas Cole had with William Cullen Bryant, the nature poet. In this painting and in *The Beeches*, we see that the colors are somewhat subdued. As an engraver, Durand worked in the basic values of black and white and his training as an engraver probably caused him to see light and dark tones more

easily than degrees of color. In *The Beeches*, we can see a silvery-gray tonality which ties the work together with an aesthetic luminosity and seems to suggest the presence of a deity.

Durand died in 1886 at the age of ninety. He had taken important steps in composition, aerial effects, light and color, which the next generation of Hudson River painters, the Luminists, would exploit. Novak considers Asher B. Durand a nineteenth-century American avant-garde painter. Durand, in his final letter for *The Crayon*, could have been referring to *The Beeches* when he wrote simply "That is a fine picture which at once takes possession of you—draws you into it—you traverse it—breathe its atmosphere—feel its sunshine, and you repose in its shade without thinking of its design or execution, effect or color."

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### Riverlover Of The Month

by Jan Ravase

Back by popular demand, the first interview in the new 21<sup>st</sup> century series is our favorite mother figure, Terry Arnold. She was born in Ossining, went to UCLA, and studied design in Stockholm, Sweden. One would think, however, that she had degrees in ecology, culinary arts, and quilting.



Riverlovers Founding Member  
Terry Arnold

Over the past ten years she lost her beloved spouse, Bob, on March 6, 2001, but gained twin grandchildren from professors Robert (a geophysicist, electrical engineer and oil expert) and Kelly (an English teacher). Alise and Robert will be eleven on June 1<sup>st</sup>. They and other members of her family and friends have been the recipients of quilt tops and over 100 sweaters.

Terry is world-traveled, and most recently has been to Alaska (and we've all benefitted from the salmon), California and down South. She thinks the Hudson River Valley is one of the most beautiful spots on earth, especially the stretch near the Bear Mountain bridge.

Somewhat unfortunately, in her corner of the world, Finney Farm in Croton, the tree question on the golf course wasn't addressed adequately. Son Bobby appears on occasion, duffle bag in hand, and selects from some 1000 balls on the lawn, which are now headed up to our 49<sup>th</sup> state.

Somehow, Mrs. Arnold tends to more than 2000 flower and vegetable plants, and cans the vegetables, many of which stand stocked in her pantry. (I'm fortunate to have a jar of raspberry jam.) We discussed the winter weather, where Mother Nature has a sense of humor, and she recalled a tornado which cut through the property years ago, causing power outages in the area from a week to over a month.

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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 11, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the second Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Riverlovers Study Group presents **"Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Plastics Recycling."** Check our website for the latest info, at [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org).

April 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents The Ebony Hillbillies.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, children 5-12 \$10, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: [www.walkaboutclearwater.org](http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org) or call 914-242-0374.

April 22, Tue, **Earth Day Celebration at Pace University, Pleasantville.** Teach-In programs at Environmental Center cottage on "Solitude," "Psychology and Global Warming," "Environmental Sustainability," "What About Those PCBs in the Hudson River", 10am-6pm.

May 9, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the second Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Final arrangements, scheduling and assignments for **Shad-Fest.** Check our website for the latest info, at [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org).

May 10, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents Phil Ochs Night.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, children 5-12 \$10, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: [www.walkaboutclearwater.org](http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org) or call 914-242-0374.

May 18, Sun, 11am to 5pm, **Riverlovers 18th annual Shad-Fest at Croton Point Park.** Volunteers needed for the big Riverlovers event of the year. Call Robin now!

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Terry is a living history book for Clearwater and Riverlovers. She has been working the Revival kitchen since 1978, thirty years beyond the initial Smithsonian solar cooking demonstration. Our Sloop Club started in 1988 in her living room. Her motto for our next ten years is not to give up, but she does see us in 2008 at a standstill, with the Shad-Fest being the unifying force.

In a nutshell, Terry, Riverlovers is so happy you continue to be with us—you put the tablecloth on our table! When I asked for an outline of her health, she said, "I'm like the river that flows both ways!" We hope it flows peacefully in our direction over the next decade.

Consider giving her a call at 271-8227 before stopping by, right off 9A, for a visit. Company is on her agenda, and I can taste her pie now! She has an all-white lab, Snowcap, the apple of her eye, with a money box under his chin (it's St. Bernards that have the brandy), to cover some of his medical expenses.

P.S.: I'm now accepting interview number 8—don't miss out on the fun. Call me at 845-831-3010.

### *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 2008 to: Riverlovers, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

I want to have *Riverlovers Currents* delivered electronically.

Send to this e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **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

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting  
 April Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Robin Fox, Jan Ravase



## 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](http://www.riverlovers.org)

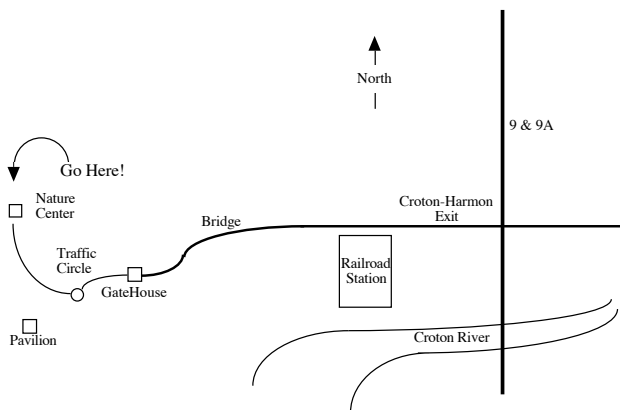
### Newsletter Submissions

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.

## Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and Study Group on Plastics Recycling



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



**Friday, April 11, 2008**  
**6:30pm**  
**Croton Point Nature Center**