



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 22, Number 4, April 2009

Riverlovers Doings

by Gunnar Andersen

Here's what's coming up in the months ahead. We've got plenty of exciting events, so make plans to join us and be an active part of the river community.

Friday, April 17: Riverlovers Potluck dinner/meeting. Clearwater's Executive Director, Jeff Rumpf will give us an update on Clearwater's activities, especially those centered around the Quadricentennial celebrations involving Henry Hudson, Pete Seeger's 90th birthday, and the new Beacon home for Clearwater.

Saturday, May 17: Riverlovers NINETEENTH ANNUAL SHADFEST!! The good news is that we're going to be able to have shad. The Hudson River Foundation, a key partner in the ShadFest, supports a limited catch for this season. Details on performers and schedules will be posted on our website as the plans come together. Volunteers are always welcome and will be invited to our annual sail on the Clearwater, tentatively sometime in August. Last year it was a lovely sunset sail from Verplanck.

Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21: Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival. Riverlovers will participate in this great annual festival again, with a stellar list of performers, and we'll once more be a part of the crew in the Sloop Club tent.

Friday, July 17: We will repeat our popular Potluck and river seining adventure with Scott Williamson from the Nature Center. This is a big hit with both adults and children. Check the website for details.

Don't forget to join the crowd and enjoy the fun at the Walkabout Coffeehouse on April 11, when singer-songwriter Christine Lavin presents her new topical and political song collection that has something for everyone. Come and be magnificently entertained!

How Green Is Your Seafood?

Here is some guidance from Seafood Watch, the environmental evaluation performed as a public service by the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Don't be afraid to ask questions to insure you are doing the sustainable thing for the planet while you're doing the healthy thing for your body.

If wild salmon or halibut is too expensive for your wallet, is there a farmed fish that is acceptable from a sustainability standpoint? Yes there is, and it's rainbow trout,

which, unlike farmed salmon and tuna, is farmed in "raceway" systems that significantly reduce the risk of escapes and disease transfer.

If you're looking for mollusks, just about all the farmed bivalve mollusks are considered to be acceptable because they require little energy, can't escape into the wild, and create minor amounts of pollution.

If you're into sashimi, do you know which type of tuna sashimi is a fresh, sustainable choice? Pick a yellowfin "ahi" tuna caught in the U.S. Atlantic region by trolling or single-pole fishing, which avoids bycatch of endangered species. Avoid all types of bluefin tuna, which has been severely overfished.

Avoid anything called "Chilean sea bass" because it's endangered, and that's not what it is anyway. It's not a bass, and it inhabits the waters off Argentina and Uruguay as well as Chile. The real name is Patagonian toothfish, which doesn't really sound very appetizing anyway.

Clearwater Legacy Concert At Madison Square Garden May 3rd

To celebrate Pete Seeger's 90th birthday, *The Clearwater Concert: Creating the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders* is set for 5pm on Sunday, May 3rd at Madison Square Garden, and a capacity crowd is expected. This event, arranged on behalf of Clearwater to raise an endowment legacy to carry Pete's dream into the next generation, has already generated a huge amount of excitement.

Among the featured performers are Bruce Springsteen, Dave Matthews, Eddie Vedder, John Mellencamp, Emmylou Harris, Arlo Guthrie, Ani DiFranco, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, Tom Paxton, Guy Davis, Dar Williams, Richie Havens, Taj Mahal, Tony Trischka and an amazing list of top performers, all wanting to honor Pete and to endow his legacy for the future.

General ticket sales through ticketmaster.com start at 9:00am on Monday, March 30 and are expected to move quickly. Get yours before they run out. We hope to fill the Garden in a rousing tribute to an iconic figure who has fostered peace and justice around the globe.

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

Indian Point Environmental Justice

One of the formal Contentions by Clearwater to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Entergy's License Renewal Application for Indian Point Nuclear Units 2 and 3 concerns environmental justice. The Contention, given official standing in the relicensing hearings, states: "Entergy's Environmental Report contains a seriously flawed Environmental Justice Analysis that does not adequately assess the impact of Indian Point on the minority, low-income and disabled populations in the area surrounding Indian Point."

A number of points are raised in support of this Contention. Entergy's environmental justice and demographic methodology is both flawed and incomplete. The Environmental Report does not adequately acknowledge the significant Environmental Justice communities within 50 miles of Indian Point, or assess Indian Point's impact on them.

Minority and low-income populations may be more susceptible to cancer from Indian Point radioisotope emissions than other populations. In addition, the Environmental Report fails to take account of subsistence fishing in the Hudson River, given that radioactive leaks into groundwater flowing into the river have been documented.

Low-income populations will be more severely and negatively impacted by an evacuation resulting from a radiological event at Indian Point. Residents of special facilities will be more severely and negatively impacted by such an evacuation, including those who are disabled patients in hospitals and long-term care facilities, and inmates in the numerous prison facilities in the area.

Furthermore, there are Environmental Justice concerns relating to the production of Indian Point's nuclear fuel, and to the long-term storage of nuclear waste products, especially the impacts upon Native American populations who are forced by poverty and powerlessness to accept exposure to these hazardous materials.

Serious consideration must be given to these issues. A wave of the hand by Entergy is inadequate to satisfy even the most basic elements of fairness and justice. Higher standards must be met.

Trains And Risk Assessment

Under federal regulations implemented last year, the nation's freight railroads are now required to carry highly toxic chemicals and other hazardous materials on the "safest and most secure routes" available. The aim of this Department of Transportation rule is to reduce the risks of derailments and terrorist attacks.

Railroad companies are directed to assess whether it would be safer to send trains hauling chlorine, ammonia or other poisonous materials to alternative routes that bypass the nation's largest cities and population centers. The chemical industry, which relies heavily on railroads to deliver raw materials and to ship finished products, was reported to welcome the government action.

The DOT has also recently proposed new standards to improve the structural integrity of tank cars, and is reviewing the role of human factors in rail accidents. Federal action was welcomed, because conflicting local or state ordinances could disrupt rail operations involved in interstate commerce and result in shutting down the entire rail system.

However, critics complain that the new rule could allow railroads to route dangerous cargo however they see fit, and could preempt attempts by large cities to ban or restrict transporting of hazardous materials within their boundaries. Oversight provisions have yet to be formulated, and there are no real standards in place to ensure appropriate compliance. The DOT has taken a necessary, but not a sufficient step toward protecting against potentially serious and large-scale hazards. They still have work to do.

Hudson River History Shorts

When Henry Hudson, in his ship the Half Moon, first dropped anchor near Staten Island in 1609, he stood by the rail and looked out over a large natural harbor with several islands and a big river stretching northwards. The river appeared so large that he thought he had found the "northwest passage" to the Asian "Islands of Spice."

For thirteen days Hudson and his crew sailed northwards, tacking his wooden ship back and forth across the slowly narrowing river, until he reached his furthest point upstream, at today's town of Hudson. He had sailed nearly 120 miles into the North American continent.

Imagine the Hudson as this first European visitor saw it. A waterfall cascading down the large palisade cliffs, thick stands of tall trees overhanging the banks, multitudes of fresh water streams entering on either side, large and small animals along the banks and small villages of native Americans grouped along the shore. And the river—always seeming to stretch further northward.

The history of the Hudson Valley is written in the names of present day places. As we travel up the river we find places that continue to have their original names as set forth by the native Americans, a legacy of places named by the Dutch explorers and settlers, and the names given to places and areas by the British.

Ossining, an area settled over 300 years ago by the Sint Sinck Indians, hosts the former federal prison known as Sing Sing—the name that the town used to have. The Dutch legacy is evident at Yonkers (an abbreviated form of "Jonkheer"—Dutch for "young gentleman", which is how Van der Donck signed his name when he took possession of his patron), and Peekskill—named for the early trader Jan Peek who explored the stream that entered into the Hudson where today's city stands. The term "kill" in Dutch translates into the English word "stream". The Hudson River is thus a living record of this area's history.

Feedback

To the Editor,
I just returned from the Riverlover-sponsored showing of "Swim for the River" at the Croton Free Library. There were fourteen people in the audience—three were Riverlovers! Three out of the forty-some people to whom we mail newsletters is NOT GOOD! Over thirty of you missed an interesting, moving and topical movie, as well as Gunnar's wonderful oatmeal cookies. How will we continue as a viable, productive club if few people participate in a free hour of entertainment? How are we going to put on the 2009 ShadFest?

Disappointedly yours,
Robin



What's Happening When

Daily at 11:11am, Sat at 9am & 2pm on WAMC and upstate affiliates, **The Clearwater Moment**. Snippets of news, history & song. Turn on, tune in.

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

April 1, Wed, 6:30pm, **Ferry Sloop Meeting & Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Our sister organization and sailing group shares a home, a mission and some activities with us. Info: www.ferrysloop.org.

April 5, Sun, 5pm, **Uptown Coffeehouse, featuring songwriter Eric Andersen** with songs & guitar. 4450 Fieldston Road, Bronx. \$20. Info: (718) 885-2955, www.uptowncoffeehouse.org.

April 11, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Christine Lavin**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$20 in advance (available via www.BrownPaperTickets.com or walkaboutclearwater.org or 1-800-838-3006), or \$25 at door. \$15 at door with student ID, \$10 children 6-12, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

April 12, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Archaeology Open House**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Info: 862-5297.

April 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center**. Join us to hear Clearwater Executive Director Jeff Rumpf tell us about the Hudson Quadricentennial and what's going on at Clearwater. Check our website at www.riverlovers.org for the latest info.

April 18, Sat, 10am-3pm, **Earth Day Shore Clean-Up at Croton Point**. Meet at Nature Center. Work gloves & trash bags provided. Refreshments served. Info: (914) 862-5297.

April 19, Sun, noon, **Earth Day Potluck & Networking Opportunity at Beacon Sloop Club**, followed by a River Sweep at 2:30pm. Exchange program information & literature. Help spruce up the Beacon waterfront. Info: www.beaconsloopclub.org or (845) 542-0721.

April 21, Tues, 7pm, **Beacon Sloop Club presents Dr. James Hansen of NASA**, at Beacon High School Auditorium. Outspoken authority on global warming. Live music with Victorio Roland Mousaa & Pete Seeger. Info: www.beaconsloopclub.org or (845) 542-0721.

April 23, Thu, 7:30pm, **Tom & Dick: The Smothers Brothers Show at the Paramount**, 1008 Brown St, Peekskill. 50th Anniversary Tour. Tickets \$35-\$55, available at 877-840-0457 or www.paramountcenter.org. Info: 914-739-2333.

Jan Ravase, Gunnar Andersen and Warren Lindholm, were part of the serving crew at EagleFest.



Photo by Beverly Dyckman

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 2009 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
Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
Publicity		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

Newsletter Submissions

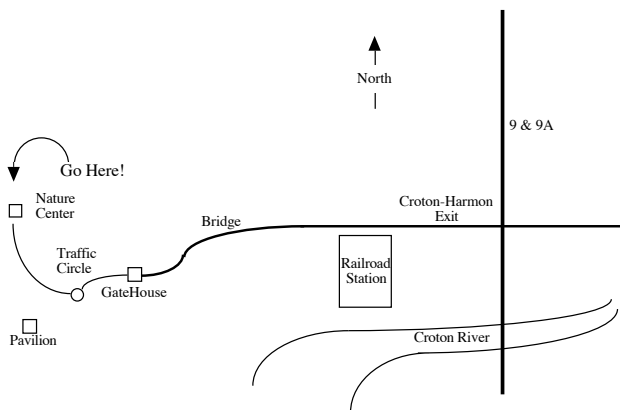
Please send news articles and other items of interest to Riverlovers Currents, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Include your name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted on request.

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
 April Newsletter Contributors: Gunnar Andersen, Robin Fox, Jon Lambert

Riverlovers Monthly Potluck with Clearwater Executive Director Jeff Rumpf



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



Friday, April 17, 2008
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center