



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 23, Number 4, April 2010

Message From The President

The screening of "FOOD, Inc" was successful. The movie exposes the myth that our food comes from a pastoral environment with free-ranging farm animals. Instead, the chickens and pigs are squeezed into windowless buildings by the thousands. The beef animals are packed into giant feed lots, and fed corn instead of grasses to fatten up. The chickens are bred to have such heavy chests that they barely can walk. The movie advises us to buy from farmers' markets, eat nutritious meals at home, and replace high fructose corn syrup sodas with low calorie beverages.

The next movie we will screen is the award-winning "Inconvenient Truth" at the April 16 Potluck. This film speaks for itself. From the DVD jacket: "Former Vice President Al Gore presents an eye-opening and compelling view of the future of our planet—and our civilization. This is a wake-up call that cuts through the myths and misconceptions to deliver the message that global warming is a real and present danger."

Saturday, April 17 from 10 am to 3 pm, there will be an Earth Day shore clean-up for Croton Point Park. We can make a difference by pitching in to keep our shore-line free of trash. **REMEMBER** that we are Riverlovers, so it's important for us to volunteer to clean-up our beautiful Hudson River. Work gloves and trash bags are provided. Refreshments will be served. We will meet at the Nature Center.

Finally, since we are not having a ShadFest in May, let's have a springtime walk on the new Croton Trail along the Hudson River. We will meet at the boathouse at Senasqua Park, Sunday May 23rd, at 1 pm.

Save The Walkway!

New York State is considering a plan to close the Walkway State Historic Park (and other state parks and historic sites) from December through March and at least two days each week after that! This comes after the Walkway has become, in just six months since opening, New York's third most popular park with nearly half a million visitors.

We at Clearwater think this would be a shortsighted attempt to save what amounts to pennies compared to the state's enormous budget, while possibly losing significant tourism revenue and the state taxes they generate. Moreover, it would close an important source of free healthy recreational entertainment for hundreds of thousands at a time when it is desperately needed.

Please help us by joining the campaign to Keep the Walkway Open. Go to the Walkway's "our Facebook" page: www.facebook.com/keepwalkwayopen, and join as a fan. You can also check out ways to tell New York State that this would be a very bad idea. With your help we can Keep the Walkway Open!

Much thanks,
Clearwater

Walkabout Coffeehouse Coming Up

Once again, you will find the flyer for the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse along with your "Currents." The concert for Saturday, April 10, 2010 is a double bill featuring long-time Clearwater favorites, Pat Humphries and Sandy O who perform together as Emma's Revolution. Pat and Sandy will share the stage with Minnesota singer-songwriter, Sara Thomsen. It will be an evening of powerful songs for social change, songs with poetic lyrics and haunting melodies, songs in the tradition of Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie and other well-known figures of the folk-music world.

Mark the date on your calendar, post your flyer and come on down to White Plains for a memorable concert. It's the second-to-last concert of Walkabout's 22nd season! Get your tickets by credit card at www.BrownPaperTickets.com, or for more information, check the website at www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or call 914-242-0374. Bring your friends and celebrate the 22nd season in style!

Guthrie Legacy Concert

Tarrytown Music Hall will be the venue on Saturday, April 24th at 8pm, for "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine: The Guthrie Legacy Concert." The Klezmatics, Work o' the Weavers, Pete Seeger and Fred Hellerman will all be performing at this benefit concert for the Woody Guthrie Foundation and the Sloop *Woody Guthrie*.

These legends of folk and klezmer music will pay tribute to the trailblazing American singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie and others that followed in his wake, with musical performances throughout the evening.

Actor/singer Rob Tepper will perform a scene from "When the Curfew Blows," his one-man show about Guthrie's life and times, and Toronto's Theresa Tova will join Frank London for some contemporary Yiddish jazz.

Tickets are \$85, \$65 and \$45, from Ticketforce at 877-840-0457 or tickets.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Hudson River PCB Update

by Manna Jo Greene

General Electric completed its first season of PCB dredging in December, having cleaned up only about half the sites that were proposed to be remediated in Phase 1 during summer and fall of 2009. With higher than average rainfall, the river currents were quite strong. In addition, dredging exposed large amounts of PCB-contaminated material hidden below debris in the river, which was previously thought to be the river bottom.

Once the debris was removed, almost twice as much PCBs were dredged from ten of the proposed 18 Phase 1 work sites, and eight were left unremediated as the dredging season came to a close.

Clearwater has not yet drawn any conclusions about the Phase 1 effort, but remains committed to seeing this clean-up project through to a successful conclusion. The project is now on hold for a year while a peer review process is undertaken to evaluate what worked and where improvements can be made in Phase 2, which will cover the remaining 35 miles of the upper Hudson River, north of Albany.

True to form, GE wanted the Engineering Performance Standards that govern the project to be relaxed, reducing the levels of PCBs that they are required to remove, but leaving more residual PCBs in the river that could later wash downstream to the lower Hudson, which is not slated for remediation in this Superfund clean-up. The EPA disagrees with GE and is proposing that a second unloading dock be constructed to shorten the wait time for empty barges that caused a serious bottleneck and reduced productivity during Phase 1.

Clearwater is determined that the PCB-contaminated sediment in the upper Hudson be removed as carefully and thoroughly as required in the original project design, including any additional contamination that is discovered, while minimizing resuspension and maximizing efficiency.

To this end, Clearwater has partnered with Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson and Natural Resources Defense Council to retain a highly-respected expert in sediment transport, W. Frank Bohlen of the Marine Sciences Department at the University of Connecticut, who will help develop recommendations that will assure a world-class clean-up of the upper Hudson so that PCBs stop moving through the food chain and the ecosystem, and the health of the river is fully restored.

Croton Point's Rich Past—Part II

In the late 1600's, Stephanus Van Cortlandt, a member of a prominent fur trading family, purchased land along the Hudson River from various Kichtawank sachems, or headmen. According to oral tradition, a fortified fur trading post or fur storage facility stood at the confluence of the Hudson and Croton Rivers, where the Van Cortlandt manor house stands today.

The Teller family, also in the fur trade, was connected by marriage to the Van Cortlandts and other fur-trading families. William Teller and his wife, Rachel Kierstede Teller, established a trading post on Tellers Point, also known as Sarah's Point, perhaps after Sarah Kierstede, an Indian trader in Nieuw Amsterdam and William Teller's mother-in-law.

The last Kichtawank land conveyances on Croton Point were signed in 1699. Purchase prices included a wide range of legal and illegal trade goods, including firearms, lead, and powder; beer and rum; wampum; metal utensils; blankets, cloth and clothing. The Native Americans had left the area by the turn of the 18th century. Descendants of the Van Cortlandts and the Tellers remained on Croton Point until 1800.

During the American Revolutionary War, two farmers fired a small cannon on a British ship off Croton Point, causing it to strand its passenger, British Major John Andre. The ship was *The Vulture*, and it had been carrying Major Andre from a secret meeting with Benedict Arnold where they exchanged plans of the American fortifications at West Point. Major Andre, now forced to travel on foot, commandeered a horse, but was captured near Eastview and later hanged, thus ending the British plan to control the Hudson at West Point and divide the rebellious colonies in half.

In 1804, Robert Underhill purchased Croton Point from the Teller heirs. Underhill became a farmer, producing vegetables and fruit for the New York City market. During the British blockade of the War of 1812, his watermelons were in great demand, with packet freighters (like the *Clearwater*) dropping anchor in Croton Bay to load up the local produce. About 1827, Underhill planted the first vineyard for the cultivation of wine grapes. Underhill died in 1829, leaving the land on Croton Point to two sons, William and Richard.

Stay tuned, as the historic journey continues in subsequent editions of *Riverlovers Currents*.

Environmental Toxins And Kids

What's getting into our children? In the past century, the threats to our children's health have changed markedly. We've pretty much conquered the life-threatening infectious diseases in the United States, like polio, smallpox and cholera. Today, babies born here can expect to live perhaps two decades longer than babies born a century ago.

However, today's children are growing up in a world in which environmental toxins are ubiquitous. We can measure literally hundreds of man-made chemicals in the bodies of all of us, including infants. They are exposed to PCBs, lead and mercury in the womb and via breast milk. Baby bottles and baby toys have been found to contain bisphenol-A, lead, phthalates and other toxins that have been linked to reproductive and developmental disorders.

Along with the increase in harmful elements detected in everyday household items, we see that the rates of chronic diseases have also been going up sharply. What's frightening is that these conditions are now the leading causes of childhood illness and death. We recognize that air pollution and cigarette smoke contribute to asthma, the most common chronic disease of childhood, and that has increased 160 percent in the last 15 years for children under the age of five.

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals found in pesticides, herbicides, several plastics, and our air and water too, interfere with the body's hormone regulating system, in turn leading to reproductive disorders, impaired neurological function, and immune system disruption. Cancers have been linked to many solvents and pesticides in common use, and these kill more children under age 15 than any other disease.

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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, Tues, 6:30pm, **Ferry Sloops 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 10, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse** featuring Pat Humphries and Sandy O who perform together as Emma's Revolution. Pat and Sandy will share the stage with Minnesota singer-songwriter, Sara Thomsen. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance (available via www.BrownPaperTickets.com), or \$20 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 11, Sun, 1pm, **MALFA Archaeology Open House** at Croton Point Nature Center. Share an afternoon of archaeology adventure.

April 16, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center, with a showing of Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" documentary and wake-up call. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

April 17, Sat, 10am-3pm, **Earth Day Shore Clean-Up at Croton Point Park**. You can make a difference by pitching in to keep our shorelines free of trash. Show our appreciation to the Park and the Nature Center. Work gloves and trash bags provided. Refreshments, too. Meet at Nature Center.

April 24, Sat, 8pm, **"Kisses Sweeter Than Wine: The Guthrie Legacy Concert"** at Tarrytown Music Hall. Tickets \$85, \$65, \$45 at tickets.tarrytownmusichall.org.

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Exposure to lead, mercury and some pesticides at an early age are suspected to contribute to autism, ADHD and other developmental conditions affecting five to ten percent of all babies born each year.

Let's recognize that a contaminated environment takes a heavy economic toll, on the order of \$55 billion per year in medical costs and lost productivity. There is clearly a strong link between effective environmental protection policies and health care reform that will cut our mushrooming costs.

We know this works. Forty years ago, studies on childhood lead poisoning led to removal from paint and gasoline, producing a 90 percent decline in lead poisoning. As a result, children's average intelligence rose by five to six IQ points, and American productivity increased by \$100 to \$300 billion annually. Twenty-five years ago, several pesticides were banned after research showed developmental damage in children, and we now see improvements in this area too.

Congress needs to pass the Child Safe Chemical Act, to mandate that all new chemicals be tested and found safe for children before being allowed on the market. There are currently 62,000 untested chemicals in use, and they need to be either proven safe or banned. Legislation like this already exists in Europe.

A third of our population are children, but they are our future and they deserve our fullest protection. Let's not fail them for the sake of a few dollars more in profits.

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 2010 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

- Visa MC Discover 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



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

Riverlovers Officers

President:	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
Vice Pres. (programs):	Robin Fox	271-6088
Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396
President-Emeriti	Eric Marshall	827-3696
	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112

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: Robin Fox, Manna Jo Greene, Philip Landrigan, Warren Lindholm

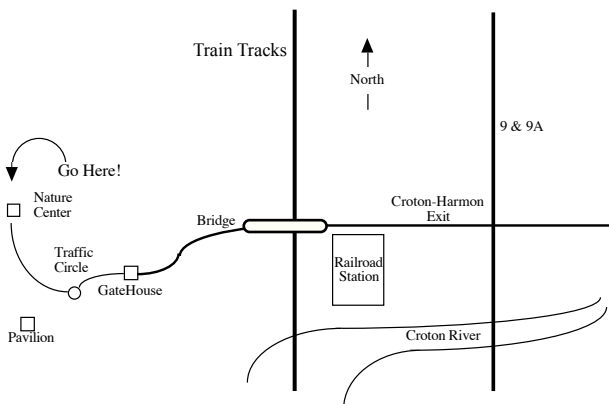
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and "Inconvenient Truth" movie



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, April 16, 2010

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center