



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 26, Number 4, April 2013

Message From The President

Spring is coming with its better weather, and we have planned some great outdoor activities in the coming months. But first, for the March Potluck, we screened “Koyaanisqatsi” by Godfrey Reggio, with music by Phillip Glass. In the post-movie interview Mr. Reggio states that this film is about the great beast that is American technology, good and bad. To me this movie reflects on the relentless degradation of our environment by mankind.

Our next Potluck will be on Friday, April 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. We will screen one part of a 4-part PBS special “America Revealed—Electric Nation.” Stunning aerial photography, high definition video. Host Yul Kwon climbs, leaps, and rides across the U.S. to find out what makes our nation tick. For the “Electric Nation,” we take electricity for granted, but how is it generated and how does it reach every home, office and factory in the nation? The show explores renewable energy such as solar and wind power, and what back-ups are needed.

Earth Day is coming Sunday, April 21, 2013 and I’m glad to announce that the Riverlovers have been invited to have a free table at the Westchester County-sponsored Earth Celebration at the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. The organizers anticipate several thousand people will visit. This should be a valuable opportunity to showcase our Sloop Club. I urge you to please volunteer!

The next Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 12 noon, we will have an opportunity to tour Wildflower Island at the Teatown Reservation. The address is 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY 10562. See Daria’s article in this newsletter. The suggested donation will be \$10. Due to limited space on the tour (8 people), if you wish to reserve a spot, send a check made out to Riverlovers to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

For the next Sunday, May 5 at 1 pm, I would like to lead the Riverlovers on a walk at the Sylvan Lake Park Preserve in Yorktown, near where I live. This was formerly a quarry that supplied honey-colored granite for the George Washington and Whitestone Bridges. Some highlights on the trails are the Grant Lookout, and the historic Quarry Oak tree. The best directions are to go to Route 202 and turn north at Lexington Avenue (opposite the Hess gas station). At 0.5 miles turn right onto Morris Lane and head downhill for 0.2 miles where we will meet at the little parking area. Call me at 914-319-3379 if you need help with directions.

On Saturday, June 8th, The Friends of the Great Swamp will have a canoe trip from the Patterson Environmental Park near the Patterson train station in northeast Putnam County. This waterway is a slowly flowing stream leading to the east branch of the Croton River.

June 15 and 16 are the dates for the Great Hudson River Revival. We need volunteers for our Sloop Club outreach table at the festival. Call me to arrange volunteer passes.

Finally, we are planning to book our annual sail on the Sloop Clearwater. Notify me for any preferences for what month or what evening of the week you like. We currently ask for a suggested donation of \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members which we share with our parent organization. What a bargain for everyone!

(I’d like to thank Gunnar for a new calendar on the Riverlovers website. Just click on an activity for more details.)

Riverlovers Tour Of Wildflower Island

Spring with all its flowers and emerging green is special in the forest at Teatown Reservation on Wildflower Island. Join your fellow Riverlovers on April 28th for a private tour with our own tour guide, Daria Gregg.

Emergence of flowers varies by weeks each year, influenced by temperature and rain. However, in late April you may be seeing the Pink Lady’s Slippers for which Teatown is famous. There are also yellow Lady’s Slippers. Both are considered orchids of the temperate forest. Flowers emerge in the forest before all the leaves have come out, when there is still plenty of sunlight on the forest floor. Plants are pretty smart, don’t you think.

In addition we may encounter many kinds of violets, some of the Trillium species, Spring Beauty, and Golden Alexanders. Looking at late April flower lists, there are an average of 40 flowers blooming somewhere on Wildflower Island. Daria is looking forward to showing you this special local treasure. Bring a bagged lunch for a group picnic afterwards. Our tour starts at 12 noon. Meet in the lobby of the Teatown Nature Center.

Pay your dues now—support our river! \$25 Individual & \$35 Family

It cost \$8.60 a year to send you the *Riverlovers Currents*. Please consider adding at least that much to your annual dues. Support your Newsletter and the river, and get your friends to join you.

New York Fracking On Hold!

New York was unable to issue regulations for high-volume hydrofracking, missing a February procedural deadline. The DEC will now have to restart the process, and there will be another round of public hearings and another opportunity to submit comments to the DEC.

The deadline was missed because the New York Department of Health was unable to complete a review of the health impacts of fracking and asked to wait for completion of EPA and other studies before issuing its report. As a result of public pressure on Governor Cuomo, he asked that the health aspects be reviewed.

To his credit, Governor Cuomo has said that he is committed to "letting science decide" the fate of fracking in New York. In the meantime, new reports raise more questions about the health issues, the water contamination problems, and the economics of fracking in upstate communities.

The more we hear, the less attractive fracking becomes in New York, but public vigilance is going to be required to prevent a stealth backdoor deal.

(Adapted in part from Beacon Sloop Club's Broadside)

Do You Know The Source Of Your Oil?

If you drive a car that runs on gas or diesel, you've probably thought about where the crude oil that made your fuel came from, especially when you're standing at the fueling station watching the numbers whirl by and cringing at the thought of your next credit card bill. According to the news and speeches made by politicians, the Middle East is the major source of US oil imports, right? That's why energy independence is so important, and why the Middle East is such a critical asset, because instability in the region could threaten oil prices and cause shortages.

However, our primary source of oil imports is actually found closer to home. A lot closer, it turns out; Canada and Mexico both have very large oil reserves and they sell frequently to the US. Other sources include Africa and South America. Major sources in October 2012 included Canada, Mexico, Russia, and Venezuela, along with, yes, Saudi Arabia. In fact, the Persian Gulf represented just one fifth of oil imports overall, which, while significant, isn't quite the overwhelming juggernaut it's often made out to be. What's more, the source of your oil actually varies by location within the United States.

If you live in the Midwest or Mountain West, your vehicles run on Canadian oil; this makes sense, given how easy it is to move oil and other petroleum products across the border. The South relies heavily on Mexican oil, while the East Coast uses sources from Africa; drivers in the West, on the other hand, use a lot of Saudi Arabian and Iraqi oil, fitting a more traditional profile in terms of the regions it counts on to deliver enough crude to keep its vehicles running. Certainly changes your perspective on the source of oil used in the US, doesn't it?

What it shouldn't change, though, is your perspective on fossil fuels, which still contribute to pollution, global warming and other problems. While it may be possible for North America to achieve energy independence, relying solely on its own oil deposits and reserves for fuel, that

shouldn't be a long-term goal to the exclusion of alternatives to fossil fuel.

All that Canadian oil, for example? About 95 percent of it is locked up in infamous tar sands, which require extensive processing to access the valuable petroleum inside. Many of these deposits are also located in remote, harsh regions, which make them hard to access in a way that would be commercially viable, and even industry groups admit that there might be some "environmental problems" associated with extracting, processing and transporting Canadian oil.

It's important to get an accurate look at where petroleum products used in the US are coming from, in order to form a more complete source of understanding, but that shouldn't distract us from the bigger picture. While the popular myth that the US is reliant on Middle Eastern oil isn't quite true, it *is* true that the nation has a serious problem with fossil fuels, and that this needs to change. Shifts in US energy policy are critical to encourage the nation to turn away from oil and towards something more sustainable in the long term, and finding a cure to the oil addiction may be a complex process.

We Can Replace Indian Point!

At a New York State Assembly hearing early this year, legislators and experts discussed how New York's energy supply and economy would be affected by the closure of Entergy's aging nuclear power plant at Indian Point that sits just 35 miles from midtown Manhattan.

The testimony was remarkable. The question was not *whether* we should close Indian Point, but rather, our legislators wanted to know, how *best* to do it. And we *do* have the answer.



The Synapse Energy report that Riverkeeper and NRDC released this fall provided a framework for replacing Indian Point, through energy efficiency, renewable energy, new transmission lines and the

repowering of older, inefficient plants. Our study found we have a surplus of energy now, and can save or generate the equivalent of two Indian Points with a concerted effort. Gov. Andrew Cuomo touched on those same solutions in his recent State of the State address, and the Assembly heard from experts who, again and again, reinforced those four strategies for replacing Indian point.

"People have always known Indian Point is old and dangerous. Now, they know we can close it," said Paul Galley, President and Hudson Riverkeeper. "Everyone knows we must. Now we know we can."

We've won a battle and we've changed the conversation. But we can't stop now. There's still a lot of work ahead. It's time to kick this initiative into high gear, and to counteract Entergy's massive and misleading advertising campaign. We pledge to work together with our partners, the State Legislature and Gov. Cuomo to invest in the more efficient, greener and safer 21st century energy supply we need to create jobs and, through greater efficiency, cut our energy expenses.



What's Happening When

Sundays, 10am–3pm, **Farmers' Market** at the Beacon Sloop Club, at the Red Barn, Long Dock. Local cheeses, eggs, pasta, bread, lamb, mushroom spring rolls, fruits and vegetables.

April 13, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring The Nields.** Nerissa and Katryna are great entertainment and a real treat. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets (\$18) at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 or \$23 at door. Open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Sing with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at its informal Teachabout starting at 6:45pm. Info: call 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

April 19, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center.** We will screen one part of a 4-part PBS special "America Revealed—Electric Nation." Stunning aerial photography, high definition video. Share food, & impressions on our electric grid & how renewables fit in. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

April 20, Sat, 12 noon, **Workshop on Solar Energy,** by Saul Rozinsky. In parking lot outside Beacon Sloop Club, Beacon.

April 21, Sun, **Earth Day at Kensico Dam Plaza** sponsored by Westchester County. Big crowd expected, help staff **Riverlovers outreach table.** Call Warren to sign up.

April 28, Sun, noon, **Riverlovers Tour of Wildflower Island at Teatown Reservation,** led by our own Daria Gregg. Suggested donation \$10. Due to limited space on tour (8 people) if you wish to reserve a spot, send a check made out to Riverlovers to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

May 5, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers Hike in Sylvan Lake Preserve in Yorktown.** Old quarry with lots of interesting sites. More details on page 1. Call Warren to sign up.

June 15-16, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point.** Festival event of the year! Mark the date, & pitch in to help staff Riverlovers' outreach table.

Quote Without Comment

"We have just learned . . . that July was the hottest month on record in the U.S. What we are witnessing is not only a prolonged crisis in the global economy but a tectonic shift in the global ecology as well—and the two, of course, are intimately related. The current model of global capitalism is premised upon a perpetual economic growth paradigm that must ultimately invade all accessible habitat and consume all available resources. Climate change may be the most urgent challenge but is in a sense only a symptom. The problem is the delusion that we can have infinite quantitative economic growth, that we can keep having more and more stuff, on a finite planet.

"Unfortunately, this elemental truth is something that neither policy makers nor average citizens have an easy time getting their arms around. The problems of compounding growth in the face of finite resources are not easily understood by optimistic, short-term-oriented, and relatively innumerate humans (especially the political variety)."

Joseph Keefe, President & CEO, Pax World Mutual Funds

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 (\$25 individual, \$35 family) for 2013 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.
724 Wolcott Avenue
Beacon, NY 12508

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!



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.

Back issues of *Riverlovers Currents* are available at our web site, www.riverlovers.org

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting

April Newsletter Contributors: Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

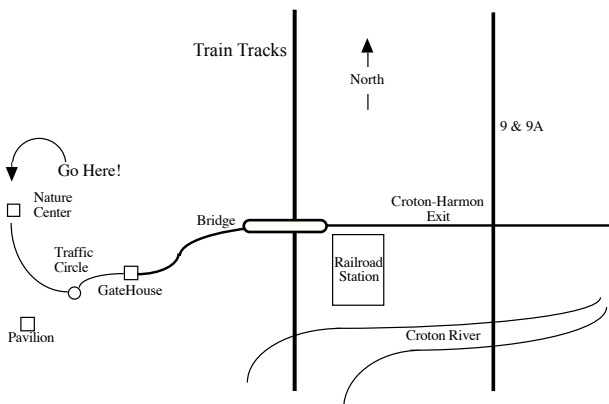
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of "America Revealed—Electric Nation"



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, April 19, 2013

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center