



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 27, Number 4, April 2014

Message From The President

Spring is here and this winter's snow is finally melting. We have planned many activities for the coming months, including walks, boating, Earth Day clean-ups, and outreach.

We had a nice crowd attending the March 21st Potluck, with lots of pizzas and salads. We screened "Pandora's Promise" but the sound was not perfect. I found out from my son James that I should have shown the film on a low-definition version from "i-Tunes."

One point that "Pandora's Promise" makes, as noted in a Time Magazine article, is that as fossil fuel usage continues to increase rapidly in the face of dangerous climate change—and that's the path we are on—you can't be fundamentally anti-nuclear. I know I made some people uncomfortable, as I would be for the other side, but I feel this is a powerful message. I also think wind and solar power are a great supplement to energy problems, but you need base load.

On a personal note, I measured fuel consumption at Con Ed's Waterside Generating Station. I felt there has to be a better way, but simply calculated, 80 gallons of oil (or 925 pounds of coal) are burned to produce one megawatt hour. In projecting 2000 megawatt hours for a 4½ year refueling cycle, to replace Indian Point would need 36.4 million tons of coal, or 6.32 billion gallons of oil. Wow! That's a lot of fuel.

For our April Potluck, we will meet at the fourth Friday of the month which is April 25th, due to the third Friday being Good Friday. We will screen "Earthdays" directed by Robert Stone. This is a film featuring the first Earth Day from 1970, and asks where we are going. Andrew Revkin, the New York Times environmental blogger, might come and discuss both films, "Earthdays" and "Pandora's Promise."

Let's take a walk on Sunday, April 27th, either to Sylvan Lake Park Preserve to visit the huge historic quarry oak tree, or to the Annsville Preserve and see great views of our beautiful Hudson River. We can decide at the April Potluck.

Let's help clean the Hudson riverfront. On Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 pm, as Daria Gregg suggested, we will team up with the Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary group to clean up the shores of Peekskill Riverfront Green Park. Riverkeeper, who is sponsoring this event, will give out coupons for a free beer at the Peekskill Brewery right across the railroad tracks from the park. If you participate, we could meet at the Brewery for a drink and something to eat. Nice idea!

The next weekend will be very busy. First, we have our Friday evening Potluck on May 16th at 6:30 pm, when we

will screen the video *'Til the River Runs Clear*. This is a story about people working together to clean up the Hudson River, featuring Pete Seeger and the *Clearwater*.

Then on Saturday, May 17th "FRoGS" (Friends of the Great Swamp) is offering a 7-mile half-day downstream paddle starting from the Patterson Environmental Park and ending at Green Chimneys. Celebrate at the Pavilion with food, music, prizes, and festivities! This is a beautiful experience. It's a longer trip than last year's paddle, but so far it's the only one offered. This is a fundraiser for "FRoGS" so they are asking for a \$55 registration fee and to provide your own kayak or canoe. They will provide assistance on the river, and a return ride. Let me know if you are interested. Some of our members and me have spare kayaks and canoes.

I'm glad to announce that the Riverlovers have been invited to have a free outreach table at the Westchester County-sponsored Earth Day celebration, which has been scheduled at Croton Point Park on Sunday May 18th from 10am to 3pm. The organizers anticipate several thousand people will visit. This should be a valuable opportunity to showcase our Sloop Club. We urge you to volunteer at the table—call me to say you'll help.

On Saturday, May 31st we will again have an opportunity to tour Wildflower Island, at the Teatown Reservation. The address is 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY 10562. This tour was very successful last year and was sold out. See Daria's article in this newsletter. The suggested donation will be \$10. Due to limited space on the tour (only 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.

The Clearwater Revival festival will be held on the weekend of June 21-22, which is the week after Father's Day this year. The Friday, June 20th Potluck will also be a volunteer sign-up. For Saturday we need volunteers for the Riverlovers outreach table (four of the volunteers can only help on Sunday). Please call me if you can help fill the gap.

This will be an interesting Spring. Be part of Riverlovers and the river, and bring your friends to our activities. Thank you for your continued support.

Pay your dues now—support our river!

\$25 Individual & \$35 Family

It cost \$9.30 a year to send you the *Riverlovers Currents*. Consider adding at least that much to your annual dues.

Our Wildflower Island Private Tour

Riverlovers is having a private tour with our own tour guide, Daria Gregg. Teatown's Wildflower Island is a local treasure. Spring, with all its flowers and emerging green, is very special on Wildflower Island.

Protected from deer and invasive plants, it provides you with a look into our past when all our local woods were full of wildflowers. You will see over 40 varieties at the end of May. We may encounter some of the Trillium species, Wild Geranium, May-Apple and Fire Pink—and if we are lucky the prized pink and yellow Lady Slippers. 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, huh?

Daria looks forward to showing you this special local treasure. See the President's Message article on page 1 for details on how to sign up for this limited-space special treat.

Threat To Hudson Needs Your Action

Join a growing number of environmental allies in pressing for a moratorium on the transport of crude oil along and down the Hudson River at least until safe conditions are established. You can help by contacting U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and calling on him to place a moratorium on the shipment of Bakken crude and tar sands crude oil through the Hudson Valley. The risks are just too great.

Contact Secretary Foxx today—tell him to keep high-risk crude oil shipments out of the Hudson Valley!

Call: 202-366-1111

Tweet: @SecretaryFoxx #NoCrudeonHudson

E-mail: anthony.foxx@dot.gov

Here are some points to make when calling for a moratorium on the shipment of fracked Bakken crude oil and Canadian tar sands oil along the Hudson:

- Federal designations (American Heritage River, Estuary of National Significance and National Heritage Area) are meaningless if laws protecting the Hudson from the shipping of crude oil under dangerous conditions are not enforced.

- Most Bakken crude and tar sands oil is transported in unsafe and outdated DOT-111 railcars conforming only to older and inadequate safety standards.

- Most oil tanker trains exploit a federal loophole that exempts 700-gallon tanker cars from having a safety plan.

- Outdated emergency response plans lack provisions for Bakken-type crude shipments or its explosive nature.

- Many rail operators lack the resources to finance high-cost cleanup and mitigation of Bakken crude and tar sands oil spills.

Let's take action against this unacceptable threat to the water quality and tourism attractiveness of the Hudson Valley. We don't want to find ourselves in the disaster news stories of tomorrow!

Do The Labels Mean What They Say?

Eco-labels have multiplied in recent years in response to rising consumer demand for more information about products and increased attention to animal and farmworker welfare, personal health, and the effects of conventional farming on the environment. Many consumers are happy to pay

more for foods with labels that signify values in line with their own.

With so many labels being used, many consumers are now confused about what each one of them stands for. Some labels, in fact, are meaningless, with flimsy standards and no oversight to speak of, used at the sole discretion of the producer or manufacturer. Other labels, on the other hand, represent standards established by the federal government or by third-party certifiers. There are also labels that lie somewhere in between. So how do you know which food labels mean what they say?

The Greener Choices Eco-Labels database, published by Consumer Reports, allows you to search by label category (e.g., organic, social responsibility, environmental persistence) and product area (beef, fruit, processed food and nuts) or for a specific label that you've been wondering about. You can also browse all 73 food labels in the database. Want to know more about labels on cleaners and personal care products? See www.greenerchoices.org/eco-labels/.

There's a report card for every label grading it on how meaningful it is ("highly," "somewhat" or "not" meaningful) and whether it is verified, among other criteria. It also provides a fairly thorough explanation of what the label means.

"Highly meaningful" food labels, as rated by Consumer Reports in the Greener Choices Eco-Labels database, include Animal Welfare Approved, Bird Friendly, Certified Humane Raised and Handled, Demeter Certified Biodynamic, Food Alliance, Rainforest Alliance Certified and USDA Organic.

Labels that are **"somewhat meaningful"** include Certified Vegan, Grassfed, Marine Stewardship Council, No Additives, No Antibiotics Administered, No Hormones Administered and Salmon Safe.

Labels rated as **"not meaningful"**—the ones consumers should be most wary of—include 100% Vegan, Antibiotic Free, Free Range, Hormone Free and Natural.

Walkabout Coffeehouse Features

Seamus Kennedy In April

Continuing a stellar lineup this season, April 12th at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse will feature Seamus Kennedy, originally from Belfast, who has been singing in the States for almost four decades. He's got a storehouse of Irish and Scottish music, of course, but also sings country and bluegrass tunes interspersed with rib-tickling jokes, stories and one-liners. If you liked the Clancy Bothers and Tommy Makem, you'll love Seamus!

The second Saturday of every month in the Fall and Spring features terrific entertainment and a folksy environment, so plan on making this a regular habit. Great people, great music, refreshments, free parking, a chance to join in with the Walkabout Chorus in a Singalong every month—that's a combination that's hard to beat. And you'll be helping to support Clearwater as well as folk music! See page 3 listing for more info.

Quote Without Comment

Environmental knowledge and understanding are laudable goals, but they must be *used* to benefit the environment if they are to serve as a model for others. Rep. Nita Lowey



What's Happening When

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

April 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Seamus Kennedy**. Check out the story on page 2, and come see a delightful show. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 via credit card (\$18), 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: 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

April 17, Thurs, 7pm, **Beacon Institute for Rivers & Estuaries, "The Symbolic Nature of Art, Science & the Environment"** At the Center for Environmental Innovation & Education, Denning's Point, 199 Denning's Ave, Beacon, Pre-register at www.bire.org/events.

April 25, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center, featuring a screening of "Earthdays" directed by Robert Stone. Discussion to follow. More details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

April 27, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers walk**, either to Sylvan Lake Park Preserve to visit the historic quarry oak, or to Annsville Preserve for views of our beautiful Hudson River. We'll decide at the April Potluck. Call Warren for details.

May 31, Sat, 11am, **Riverlovers private tour of Wildflower Island at Teatown**. Very limited space available for this special event. See details on page 1 and sign up promptly.

We Need Renewable Energy Standards—II

Renewable energy—and its economic benefits—can be increased by adopting strong policies and making smart investments in our electricity system. Together with smart complementary policies, state renewable energy standards (RES) policies can help maintain the nation's momentum toward a clean and prosperous clean energy economy. To continue the rapid growth of renewable energy, the Union of Concerned Scientists offers the following recommendations:

- *Adopt strong RES policies and expand existing ones.*

State governments and Congress should establish RES policies that require electric utilities to procure at least 25 percent of their power from renewable energy sources by 2025. A national RES that sets a minimum level of renewable energy for all states would ensure that the entire nation contributes to—and benefits from—the clean energy transition.

- *Invest in new transmission capacity for renewable energy.* Federal, regional, and state authorities should identify transmission projects that provide the greatest economic benefits in delivering renewable electricity from where it can be most effectively generated to where it is most needed.

- *Develop responsible and consistent siting regulations for renewable energy projects.* State and local governments should coordinate their plans to develop harmonious, trans-

parent, and science-based siting regulations for renewable energy projects.

- *Extend tax advantages and establish other financial benefits for renewable energy.* Congress should extend federal tax incentives for wind and other renewable resources, especially the production tax credit, by at least four years.

We need to become advocates, so we, and our planet, become winners, not losers, in the climate change battle.

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 2014 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		

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.

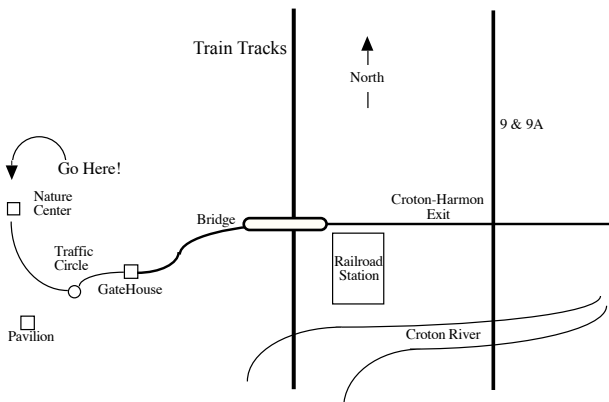
Back issues of *Riverlovers Currents* are available at our web site, www.riverlovers.org

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
 April Newsletter Contributors: Robin Fox, Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of "Earthdays"



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



Friday, April 25, 2014
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center