



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 28, Number 4, April 2015

Message from the President

The snow is finally melting! Let's go outside and celebrate the Earth. We will have Earthday celebrations, Earthday cleanups and a trip to the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx.

We had a large crowd at the March meeting. The movie "Earthdays" was enjoyed by everyone. This movie chronicled the birth of the environmental movement. We must continue to save the Earth, make sure all environmental laws are upheld and strengthened.

Now, with all the rain and warm weather, visit the Croton Gorge Park, off Rte. 129, and see the Croton Dam Spillway with all the snowmelt causing a thunderous waterfall.

For the April meeting we will be back on the third Friday of the month at 6:30 pm, which is April 17th. We will screen "Call of the Loon", donated by our member Lorraine Maegerle. The detrimental effects of mercury on this iconic bird, the loon, provide a broader understanding of the impact of mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants on wildlife and ecosystems in the Adirondacks and beyond. (Maybe nuclear plants are not so bad.)

On Saturday, April 25th from 10am to 2pm at Vassallo Park, located in the village of Croton-Harmon, behind the Black Cow coffee shop, Riverlovers will have an Outreach Table at the Croton Earthday celebration. Come see the activities, and come volunteer to be at the table to showcase Riverlovers.

Ferry Sloops invites Riverlovers to hear our own Cynthia Andersen speak about "The Hudson River School of Painting" at their Wednesday, May 6th meeting at the Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining. See our calendar on page 3 for more details.

Riverkeeper will have its 4th annual Riversweep on Saturday May 9th at 9:30am. We will meet at the Rotunda in Peekskill Riverfront Green. To register, call Daria. I suggest that it would be good if you can bring work gloves and a long handle picker-upper. Let us do our part to clean-up the shore line of the Hudson River.

For the Friday, May 15th meeting at 6:30pm, we will have our own member Cynthia Andersen give a lecture and a PowerPoint presentation on "American Impressionism." She will also discuss the artist Frida Kahlo. (See our May 21st activity below.)

May 16th has two activities that Riverlovers could participate in. The first is a Westchester County Earthday celebration in Croton Point Park, from 10am to 3pm. The sec-

ond is a Friends of the Great Swamp kayak trip from Patterson to Green Chimneys, from 9am 'till 3pm. We will need volunteers for the Earthday celebration, and kayakers for the Great Swamp trip.

On Thursday, May 21st at 11am we will meet by Gunnar Andersen's house to carpool to the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx to view the Frida Kahlo Exhibit. (See Daria Gregg's article in this issue.) Call Gunnar at 914-522-0339 for directions, and call Daria at 914-944-8396 to sign up to participate in this interesting trip.

We will have an informal Potluck on Friday, June 19th at 6 pm for our volunteers at the Clearwater Festival and anyone interested in dropping by.

Summer activities will include canoe trips to Constitution Marsh and Iona Island Educational Center and our most popular activity, our annual sail on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

Come to our meetings, come to our activities. Members and non-members are welcome. Together we can be educated and educate others to protect the Hudson and save the Earth and its climate for ourselves and future generations.

Walkabout Coffeehouse News

by Robin Fox

Saturday, April 11th will be a night of fine music at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse! Mark it on your calendars, and come to the Coffeehouse for a special evening of great acoustic music and good friendship, featuring Joe Crookston and Mustard's Retreat. Take advantage of the informal songfest with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at 6:45, prior to the concert at 7:30pm. And, please post the flier you receive with your "Currents."

Advance tickets for individual concerts are on sale at www.BrownPaperTickets.com. To keep up to date, check out www.walkaboutclearwater.org, or better yet, use the url to sign up and join the e-mail list. Bring your friends! You'll enjoy the experience, and you'll help support Walkabout and Clearwater as well.

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

It cost \$9.30 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.

Riverlovers Botanical Garden Trip

by Daria Gregg

I have marked Thursday, May 21st on my calendar for taking everyone down to the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Please contact me at Dariaweb@Verizon.net if you want to go. Over in the museum, there will be some of the art of Frida Kahlo, and if people are interested after seeing the Kahlo exhibit, I will take them for a tour of the Botanical Garden's Native Plant Center. Below is a very brief write up from the Botanical Garden.

Quite a few people have expressed interest. Once I get the number of people interested, I will see if we can get a group rate, but the numbers have to be higher than 15, I think. I have parking passes for four cars, which saves each car \$15 parking fee. The senior rate during the week is \$15 per person. We can meet at 10am, with Gunnar Andersen's house as the meeting place to carpool. Please e-mail me if you're interested in going.

FRIDA KAHLO:

Art, Garden, Life



FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life will focus on the iconic artist's engagement with nature in her native country of Mexico. The exhibition will be the first solo presentation of Kahlo's work in New York City in more than 10 years, and the first exhibition to focus exclusively on her intense interest in the botanical world.

Cost-Free Climate Change Fix?

In all of the protracted debate about global warming, nearly everyone has accepted the assumption that solutions are going to be costly. A new report, however, casts doubt on that and claims that the necessary fixes could end up being essentially free. When the secondary benefits of adopting greener policies, like lower fuel costs, fewer premature deaths from air pollution and sharply reduced medical costs are taken into account, the changes would end up actually saving money.

The report comes from the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, which was appointed by seven countries spanning the economic spectrum and which gathered some of the world's top economists and business consultants to evaluate the economic issues relating to climate change. The chair of the commission, economist Felipe Calderón, the former president of Mexico, noted that "We are proposing a way to have the same or even more economic growth and at the same time have environmental responsibility."

While the commission found that the needed steps may make economic sense, that doesn't mean they will be politically easy to implement. The report recommends that countries eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels, which cost about \$600 billion a year and are fiercely defended by vested interests. That amount is six times the level of subsidies for renewable energy, and is highest in countries that are major oil exporters.

Some of the report's recommendations, such as limiting urban traffic and sprawl, will be difficult to implement, but many countries and cities are already doing this. Over a hundred cities in the developing world have built fast bus systems using dedicated lanes and roadways to achieve efficient public transportation at a fraction of the cost of rail systems. Car traffic has been sharply curtailed by congestion charges in cities like London, Stockholm, Oslo and Singapore. China has launched ambitious measures to control urban sprawl, building self-contained communities ringed larger cities to reduce commuting traffic.

The commission found that, if a concerted worldwide effort were made to scale up practices that have already proved successful, emissions of heat-trapping gases could be reduced by billions of tons a year, and greatly improve the chances of limiting global climate change to tolerable levels.

The report also challenges some long-standing assumptions. It points out, for example, that the cost for renewable energy has been dropping so fast that most previous analyses of its potential are woefully out of date. Renewable energy sources have emerged with stunning speed as large-scale, and increasingly economically viable, alternatives to fossil fuels, despite the recent drop in fossil fuel prices.

What need to change are the economic policies that are still aligned to favor fossil fuels, with their huge health, environmental and other risks to us and to future generations.

Where Do Your Drugs End Up?

Down the drain—out of sight—out of mind. Unfortunately, though, the drugs you use and the chemicals in your personal care products slip through the water treatment used in municipal waste water treatment plants—and your septic system too. So where do they turn up? Largely in shallow groundwater, according to a recently published study by the U.S. Geological Survey.

These compounds are being found in increasing amounts in treated municipal waste-water that is released to streams and other bodies of water. The objectives of this research are to track contaminants of concern and to develop new wastewater management techniques. The study found pharmaceuticals and other chemicals in groundwater some distance away from the treated water discharge. Among the contaminants were diabetes drugs, antihistamines, antibacterial chemicals and dozens of other compounds that conventional wastewater treatment doesn't deal with.

Groundwater represents a significant portion of our drinking water resources, and if we contaminate it, cleaning it up so we can drink it will be a very expensive proposition. It's like fouling our nest, but only a lot worse. We need a better answer, and maybe we don't really need some of those unintended consequences. Prevention seems like a better idea than after-the-fact clean-up.



What's Happening When

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

April 1, Wed, 7:30pm, **Ferry Sloops' Spring Lecture Series.** Eric Nelson, longtime historical interpreter for Palisades Interstate Park, presents "The Unknown Palisades: A Slideshow Thru Time." At Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining. Potluck supper at 6:30, business meeting at 7:00, program 7:30-9:00pm. All Riverlovers members are invited.

April 11, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffee-house featuring Joe Crookston and Mustard's Retreat.** Check the story on page 1. Come see a great show. Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets via credit card (\$18) 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: 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

April 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Screening of "Call of The Loon" detailing impacts of coal-fired power plants on wildlife, ecosystems and health. Details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

May 6, Wed, 7:30pm, **Ferry Sloops' Spring Lecture Series.** Our own Cynthia Andersen presents "The Hudson River School of Painting." At Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining. Potluck supper at 6:30, business meeting at 7:00, program 7:30-9:00pm. All Riverlovers members are invited.

Indian Point Film Premieres at Tribeca

by Marilyn Elie

Directed and written by Ivy Meeropol, this documentary will make its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 17th, and will be shown later locally at the Depot Theater as well. You'll recognize some of the people in this film!

Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant looms just 35 miles from Times Square. With over 50 million people living in close proximity to this aging facility, its continued operation has generated controversy for the surrounding communities. In the brewing fight for clean energy and the catastrophic possibilities of complacency, director Ivy Meeropol weaves a startling portrait of our uncertain nuclear future. For more info, you can Google Tribeca Film Festival.

Will Natural Gas Do Any Good?

The sad fact, according to a new study by researchers at University of California and Stanford, is that increased natural gas use will do little to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Instead, use of the fuel could actually increase energy consumption by delaying adoption of energy-efficient technologies and put off a switch to cleaner energy sources such as wind and solar.

Increased natural gas use would result in a decrease in coal use between 2013 and 2055, but it would also decrease use of energy-efficient technologies, which could result in an overall increase in electricity use and could actually boost greenhouse gas emissions. While natural gas has been promoted as a bridge to a low-carbon future, the authors of this important study see it as actually a major detour. We need sustainable energy sources, and we need them now!

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 2015 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:

Individual \$40 Mariner \$500

Family \$55 Sailing-Master \$1000

Contributor \$100 Benefactor \$5000

Sponsor \$200 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.
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: Marilyn Elie, Robin Fox, Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

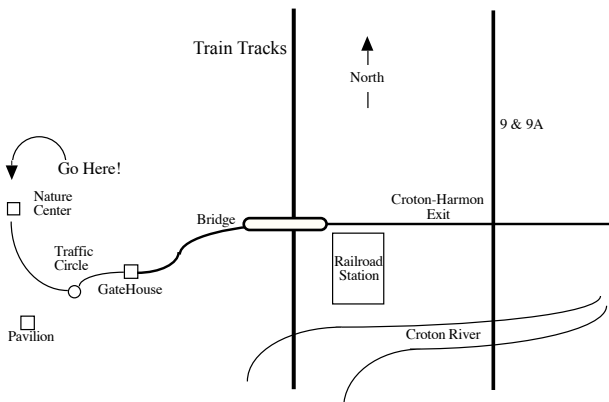
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of *Call of the Loon*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, April 17, 2015

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center