



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 30, Number 4, April 2017

Message from the President

After a somewhat mild winter we had a blizzard that dumped a foot and a half of snow. A week later the snow is starting to melt. Let's go outside and celebrate the Earth. We will have Earth Day outreach events, Earth Day clean-ups, and an early spring hike in the Blue Mountain Reservation.

For the March meeting I read excerpts of Bill Flank's articles on the problems to the environment from fracking. He will write more articles on fracking. These are must-read articles, thank you, Bill. I also read my talk at the Cortlandt Town Hall meeting concerning closing Indian Point. We had some discussions about it. I related that I tested the tubes in the steam generators with an eddy current system. By the way, I got a very loud applause at the meeting.

We screened "Giraffes—Africa's Gentle Giants." There are 7 subspecies of giraffes, with different body patterns. The giraffe population in Africa is down by 40 percent in just two decades. The documentary shows a pilot program to round up 20 of the world's rarest giraffes and bring them across the Nile River to a safer area. Catching and guiding a wide awake Giraffe into a truck is extremely difficult.

Back to the Hudson Valley: Let's do a hike at the Blue Mountain Reservation, to Spitzenburg Mountain (elevation 540 ft.). The leaves have not come out yet, and I believe one can see N.Y.C. from the top of the mountain. We can also explore the trails to the pond. How about Sunday, April 2nd, at 1:00pm? The Blue Mountain hike starts at the Sportsman Center (gun range) parking lot off Watch Hill Road.

For the April 21, 2017 Potluck at 6:30 pm we will screen either Burning the Future—Coal in America or a recorded talk by Dr. James Hansen on nuclear energy and its role in mitigating climate change. Burning the Future shows the damage of mountain-top mining.

Croton Point Park will have an Earth Day Clean-up on Sunday, April 23rd at 9:30am. Robert Reardon noted that no registration is needed, just show up. So please just show up.

Village of Croton will once again have an Earth Day celebration at Vasallo Park. Riverlovers will have an outreach table on Saturday, April 29th from 9am to 3pm. Come see the exhibits and volunteer to help at our table to showcase the Riverlovers.

Riverkeeper's annual RiverSweep will be Saturday, May 6th at George's Island. Daria and I will be co-captains. We will need to know who is volunteering. We will meet afterwards at the Peekskill Brewery.

For the May 19th Potluck at 6:30pm we will screen a PBS nature special, "Soul of the Elephant."

We will set dates for the Pepsico Sculpture Garden and the New York Botanical Garden at the April meeting. The Pepsico Garden is free. The Botanical Garden will feature a return of Chihuly Glassworks that dazzle day and night.

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

Unexpected Fukushima Legacy

Who could have imagined, six years later, that the disastrous Fukushima meltdown would give rise to hundreds of toxic wild boars descending on towns and villages, plundering crops, tearing through houses, and even attacking people?

These are not just ordinary boars—they are radioactive boars, with levels of cesium-137, 300 times higher than maximum safe levels. Six years ago, meltdown of the nuclear power plant in northern Japan forced thousands of residents to abandon homes, pets, possessions and livestock.

Authorities are now considering lifting evacuation orders on four towns within the 20-kilometer exclusion zone, and they are desperately trying to clear out the "hot" boars, so that nobody is tempted to eat what many consider a desirable delicacy that has become a deadly one.

The Chernobyl-like wasteland now features wild packs of dogs, rat colonies, and wild boars and foxes that have caused millions in agricultural damage. Teams of hunters have been hired to kill off the boars and bury them, and over 13,000 have been killed since 2014. A recent government survey showed that more than half of Fukushima's former residents said they wouldn't return because of fears over radiation and the safety of the crippled nuclear plant, which will take 40 years to dismantle.

This region will never be the same again, but there are no do-overs when a nuclear plant collapses. Many people wish they had never built the facility in the first place, but maybe that's a lesson for others too. When you play with fire, especially nuclear fire, there's a risk of getting burned in more ways than one.

Condolences

To Riverlovers president Warren Lindholm, whose mother passed away this past month at the venerable age of 95. Good memories are the best kind of legacy to leave.

Interview With Warren Lindholm

by Cynthia Andersen

I had the pleasure of interviewing our President of Riverlovers, Warren Lindholm. It was Tuesday evening, March 7th and I invited Warren to our home for dinner—Warren's mother had just died and Warren was looking sad and downhearted. We offered condolences and apologies for not attending his mother's funeral as we were in California at the time. The interview began after dinner.

C.A.: How long have you been Riverlovers president? What's your main goal for our environmental organization?

W.L.: Five years. I feel that together we can learn and educate others to protect the Hudson River and save the Earth and its climate for ourselves and future generations.

C.A.: How have you gone about fulfilling this goal?

W.L.: I screen environmental movies and PBS specials at monthly Potluck meetings, such as "Burning the Future—Coal in America" and "Giraffes—Africa's Gentle Giants." I arrange activities that will bring our members out into nature, such as hikes and field trips. I also arrange for volunteering activities. In April and May we will have several trips and walks such as the Pepsico Sculpture Garden in Purchase, and we will participate in many volunteering opportunities, such as cleaning up the shoreline of the Hudson River with RiverSweep and Earth Day clean-ups.

C.A.: It sounds as if all these activities you plan for and arrange, keep you very busy. Do you spend many hours a week doing all this planning?

W.L.: Well, my wife wants to take me to a Seminar on sleep disorders—she does not appreciate that I retire very, very late in the evening. It is true that I stay up late gazing through my telescope, which in turn stimulates my imagination and gives me ideas for the Riverlovers' agenda.

C.A.: To what do you attribute your strong interest in environmental issues and who influenced you?

W.L.: I was a Boy Scout as a boy and that made me intensely aware of the beauty of nature and the need to preserve it. Like most of us in the Clearwater organization, Pete Seeger was seen as key. Early on during the Riverlovers ShadFests, I asked Pete to see the sunspots through my telescope with its solar filter. Pete was interested in astronomy, which you know is my hobby. He wanted to start an astronomy book for children.

C.A.: Beside astronomy you have other hobbies. I have seen you do quite a bit of swimming over the years—you and I are partners together in a sailboat and you are the one that is always elected to dive in and salvage anything that might fall off the boat. Tell me about your latest swimming adventure.

W.L.: Well, you know Pete wanted to develop a River Pool in the Hudson River and I participated in the Swim for the River. I volunteered to swim from Newburgh to Beacon. I did it—I was in the water over an hour.

C.A.: Pete always had ideas. I remember that Pete was instrumental in us beginning Riverlovers and you were a member from the very beginning. I have enjoyed being a member of Riverlovers over the years, and am so thankful that you continued as President for all these years. I particularly like your "Message from the President" column in our *Riverlovers Currents* Newsletter. What is your

educational and work background? You are a good writer. Was it English lit? (ha-ha)

W.L.: No, ha-ha, I was a mechanical engineering major at Queensboro College. My first job was for Con Ed—I worked at the Waterside Power Plant on 40th and 1st Ave for thirty-seven years, and after Waterside was closed (it was valuable property), two more years in the 74th Street Station. It was there I became aware of the damage that burning oil, coal and gas can do to the environment, like increasing CO₂.

C.A.: Can you describe your job at the Waterside Generating Station?

W.L.: I was a technician and one of my duties was to total up the various fuels burned to generate electricity, and to calculate the Heat Rate. Heat Rate can best be described as the heat value of fuels burned divided by the electricity produced, which is a measure of efficiency.

C.A.: Whew! Science is just not my field. Changing the subject: When did you move to Westchester and why?

W.L.: I moved to Peekskill in 1973. I wanted a job at Indian Point, where I worked on and off as a guest technician during outages while maintaining my position at the Waterside Power Plant. I was interested in promoting nuclear power because it does not burn fuel which is so harmful to the atmosphere, and preventing millions of tons of CO₂ to be released into our air.

C.A.: So, Warren, you are pro-nuclear and some members of Riverlovers have found this to be an irony, since most of our members have been staunch "Close Indian Point" advocates. What is your response to that fact?

W.L.: In our looming climate change or "climate catastrophe," closing Indian Point is not a very good idea. We need more next-generation nuclear power plants, spent-fuel reprocessing, and the breeder reactors, in NY State and in the United States. We need to close fossil fuel power plants, not nuclear plants.

C.A.: Warren, thank you for your time in doing this wonderful interview. I have found it to be most interesting and illuminating. Thank you for your efforts toward maintaining an active Clearwater Sloop Club in our Northern Westchester-Putnam County area, and meeting the needs and interests of our members through a variety of interest groups, including monthly Potluck dinner meetings with varied programs, environmental education and awareness, boats and sailing, concerts and festivals and so much more.

Walkabout Coffeehouse In April

The Saturday, April 8th concert of the 29th season of the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse is in the upper Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church in White Plains. Phil Ochs Night is once more the feature attraction, with a star-studded array of performers singing songs by or related to Phil Ochs. These performing songwriters represent the finest traditions in music that is socially aware, musically engaged, and full of heart and purpose.

Tickets are \$18.00 in advance online (until 7:30 a.m. on the day of the concert) and \$23.00 at the door. Students with ID are \$15.00 and children ages 6 to 12 are \$10.00. For tickets, visit www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Doors open at 6:30pm and the concert begins at 7:30. The trademark informal audience songfest with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus begins at 6:45. Sing with us!



What's Happening When

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

April 2, Sun, 1:00pm **Riverlovers Hike to Spitzenburg Mountain** in Blue Mountain Park will start at the Sportsman Center (gun range) parking lot off Watch Hill Road.

April 8, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Phil Ochs Night.** *Upstairs* in the Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets are \$18.00 in advance online (until 7:30 a.m. on the day of the concert) and \$23.00 at the door. Students with ID are \$15.00 and children ages 6 to 12 are \$10.00. Open seating. Refreshments available. Free parking. Sing with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at its informal Teachabout starting at 6:45pm. Info & tickets: call 914-946-1625 or go to www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

April 13, Thurs, 7pm, **Beacon Sloop Club Winter Lecture Series: "Activist" Puppetry** with filmmaker Winnie Lambrecht, PhD & Patrick Wadden of "Arm of the Sea." At Beacon Sloop Clubhouse, Beacon waterfront.

April 21, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck Supper** at Croton Point Nature Center. We will either screen *Burning the Future—Coal in America*, or have a recorded talk by Dr. James Hansen on nuclear energy and its role in mitigating climate change. Info: www.riverlovers.org.

April 23, Sun, 9:30am, **Earth Day Clean-up at Croton Point Park.** Show up and clean up, to say thank-you for hosting Riverlovers' meetings every month.

April 29, Sat, 9am-3pm, **Village of Croton's Earth Day celebration at Vassallo Park.** Riverlovers will have an outreach table. Help us spread the word.

Fracking Equals Lots Of Spills

According to a recent published report from Duke University in the American Chemical Society's journal, *Environmental Science and Technology*, spills associated with hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, numbered in the thousands in the ten-year period from 2005 to 2014. All stages of development related to fracking were assessed in the study, in contrast to EPA reports, which only consider spills from actively operating wells.

Researchers analyzed spill data from more than 30,000 fracked oil and gas wells in Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota and Pennsylvania, showing there were 6648 spills of "drilling waste, chemicals, hydraulic fracturing solutions, saltwater, freshwater, oil products, diesel oil, equipment oil, and unknown substances" between 2005 and 2014. Two-thirds of these spills were in North Dakota, which had an overall spill rate of 12.2%, the highest rate in the study.

Equipment failure, environmental conditions, and human error were among the reported causes of the spills.

Because reporting requirements vary from state to state, the report recommends standardization to help the various stakeholders identify and prevent spill risks and mitigate the potential environmental damage.

These are unacceptably high spill rates under any circumstances, and don't even include the extremely damaging releases of methane gas taking place at all stages of fracking. Relying on so-called "natural" gas as a prime energy source instead of renewables is just plain dumb.

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 2017 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 | \$50 | <input type="radio"/> Mariner | \$500 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | \$65 | <input type="radio"/> Sailing-Master | \$1000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Contributor | \$100 | <input type="radio"/> Benefactor | \$5000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Sponsor | \$200 | <input type="radio"/> Other | \$25 |

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, River-lovers' 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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
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):		
Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396
President-Emeritus	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: Cynthia Andersen, Warren Lindholm

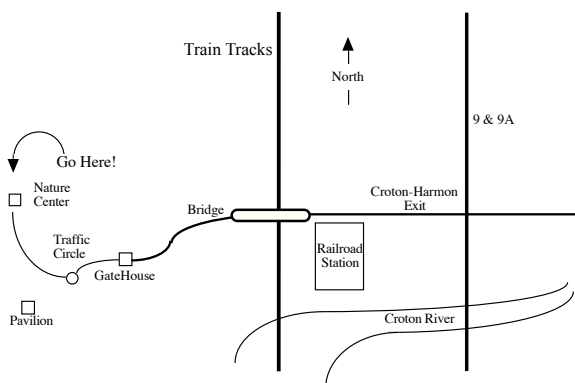
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of *Burning the Future—Coal in America*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, April 21, 2017

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center