



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 8-9, August-September 2007

## Riverlovers On The "High Seas"

by Robin Fox

It was a bright and breezy day, Riverlovers were on the deck, the bo'sun called "HEAVE - HO," all hands bent to the sail, it was a bright and breezy day, and up went the sail.

Sailing out of Alpine, NJ was a new experience for me. Before we knew it, we were almost down to the tip of Manhattan. The bridge to the island was in view when the boat heeled around back up river. I'd never viewed the magnificent Palisades from the river. Awesome. Such a contrast to the opposite shore, where the City of Yonkers is permitting the disgraceful buildup of the NY shore.

I was disappointed we didn't get to participate in a seine. It would have been interesting to see what we came up with out in mid-river, to compare with what we will find when we seine from Mother's Lap in Croton Point Park at our next Riverlovers Potluck (on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm). As always, Riverlovers folks brought along a bounty of snacks which were passed around and enjoyed. How lucky we are to have the opportunity to get on that wonderful boat, and to be part of her mission!

## Riverlovers Treasury Report

by Daria Gregg

People ask me how much did we make with the ShadFest. It is not an easy question to answer. Here are some of the facts:

1. a. So far in 2007 Riverlovers' income is \$4,190.
- b. So far in 2007 our expenses, minus Newsletter printing & postage bills, are \$2,849.33.
- c. Riverlovers' income minus expenses in 2007 is \$1340.67.
2. We grossed from the ShadFest in 2007, \$3,945
3. Our bank account has \$3,560.90 as of 6/29/07

We need about \$2000 seed money to have a ShadFest 2008, assuming costs stay about the same.

As the treasurer and the ShadFest food court coordinator, I think next year—Shad or Salmon—we need to cut the amount of fish we buy. We tend to run out of people to cook and help, and customers, around 2:30pm. The remaining customers tend to be interested in hot dogs and burgers. The fish is our biggest expense and this year we were left with half of the fish unsold. If we cut the fish order in half, we would save \$250.

In addition as the food court coordinator, I am tired of trying to find a home for the quickly-going-bad fish and having to take an extra day off from work to take this fish to the free lunch program in Ossining.

Our easiest source of money is the vendors. If we get a theme or reason for people to come, and then promote this to prospective vendors, we could maybe increase their numbers and this much-easier source of cash for Riverlovers. This would require someone to truly take the project under their wing and work on it.

Are there any Riverlovers willing to take on this job?

## Seining At Mother's Lap

by Cynthia Andersen

On a lovely, balmy Friday evening on July 27<sup>th</sup> Gunnar and I went down to Mother's Lap on the Hudson River hoping other Riverlovers would be there for the Seining Potluck. Scott Williamson was waiting with his lovely girlfriend Lynn and her adorable daughter Kerry who helped Scott bring out the seining nets. There were several families at that corner of Haverstraw Bay with their children who showed a spontaneous interest in the seining process and they enthusiastically joined us.

In the water, at low tide, seining is designed to help participants use nets to look for life in the river and identify catches of the day. We were in an estuary which is a transitional area where water from the ocean is diluted with freshwater from land drainage. The Hudson is an estuary for 153 miles (of its 315 miles) between the Atlantic Ocean and the Federal Dam in Troy. The dynamic nature of the Hudson River Estuary makes it a very productive and diverse habitat and there was therefore much to see in the seining net.

On the first seining attempt we thought at first that there was nothing in the net. Scott, however, helped us identify comb jellies which are tiny transparent orbs. When we put them in the bucket we could not see them, but when the children scooped up the water in their hands, the comb jellies appeared between their fingers, which delighted us all.

On the second seining we saw other species including striped bass and white perch, as well as silversides.

Gunnar helped and encouraged the children to explore everything with their hands. Scott told us that there are 200 species of fish in the river and that he has sometimes caught 50 different species in various places in the estuary. Summer

Continued on page 3

## Art History Series: The Hudson River School Of Painting III

by Cynthia Andersen

Thomas Cole in Europe, 1829 - 1832

This is the poem Bryant wrote when Cole went to study art in Europe from 1829-1832:

Thine eyes shall see the light of distant skies:  
Yet, Cole! Thy heart shall bear to Europe's strand  
A living image of our own bright land,  
Such as upon thy glorious canvas lies.  
Lone lakes—savannahs where the bison roves  
Rocks rich with summer garlands—solemn streams  
Skies where the desert eagle wheels and screams  
Spring bloom and autumn blaze of boundless groves.

Fair scenes shall greet thee where thou goest—fair  
But different—everywhere the trace of men.  
Paths, homes, graves, ruins, from the lowest glen  
To where life shrinks from the fierce Alpine air.  
Gaze on them, till the tears shall dim thy sight,  
But keep that earlier, wilder image bright.

Cole started out in England where he saw the work of the landscape painter John Constable (1776-1837), who did not impress him. As Bryant describes in the second stanza of his poem (see above) the English countryside as seen in Constable's paintings such as *The Haywain* (1821) is domesticated; we see intensive cultivation, "everywhere the trace of men", there is an intimacy between man, animals and the earth all shown under a European atmosphere which dulls details.

This is all very different from the wild, undomesticated landscapes of Cole (see Stanza 1 above) where there is not a sign of human activity, but rather a lonely, lyrical communication with wild nature under a clear atmosphere where every detail of every leaf is visible. Bryant urges Cole to "...keep that [America's] earlier, wilder image bright."

Cole visited J.M.W Turner (1775-1781) and although he admired his later paintings very much he wrote "...they appear to me, however, to have an artificial look...splendid combinations of colour, but...destitute of all appearance of solidity...all appears transparent and soft, and reminds one of jellies and confections." It was the old masters Claude Lorrain (1600-1682) and Salvator Rosa (1615-1673) who Cole revered.

The French painter Claude Lorrain was a great master of 17<sup>th</sup> century classical landscape painting. Drawing from classical antiquity, this school of painting presents nature as harmonious, serene and often majestic. Subject matter is taken from Greek, Roman, or biblical sources, and human figures in the landscape are often depicted in pastoral or antique dress. Claude's particular contribution to the ideal landscape was his masterly treatment of light. From his early paintings which have strong, dramatic lighting effects, to his later ones, which are softly drenched with limpid light, he was unsurpassed as an illuminist.

Salvator Rosa, the Italian painter of the same period as Claude, was best known for the creation of a new type of wild and savage landscape. His craggy cliffs, jagged, moss-laden trees, and rough bravura handling create a dank, desolate air that contrasts sharply with the beauty and serenity of Claude Lorrain. Thomas Cole absorbed the works of these two 17<sup>th</sup> century master painters and seems to have merged them into his own unique style of showing great contrasts within one painting.

When Cole returned from Europe in 1832, he was welcomed home by the cultural elite, that fraternity of artists and writers who boasted that the United States had artists equal to any in Europe and that its landscape rivaled that of the Old World for artistic inspiration. The American landscape they boasted was unique in its richness, variety and wildness. They emphasized scenery that minimized the intrusions of civilizations such as railroads, buildings and farmlands. This land, they wrote, "... was God's creation, still fresh from His hand. It offered spiritual and moral possibilities for those trained to recognize them."

Cole, who was particularly enamored of the Italian ruins he encountered in his travels, began his "Course of Empire" series of paintings (1836) which illustrate the same place in five different stages of history, from the savage to the barbaric to the civilized to the destructive to the state of ruin and desolation. This series is a paean not only to the cyclical nature of civilization but to the work of Claude and Turner among others.

In Part 4 of this series we will look at the work of Asher B. Durand (1796-1886) who, unlike his mentor and friend, Cole, was attracted to the "common details" of nature, spotted *in situ*. We will learn more about the differences between Cole and Durand and watch Durand's development as he moves away from Cole's *sturm und drang* to an almost scientific observation of nature.

### Clearwater Annual Gathering Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>

There'll be a mix of music and discussion throughout the day, Clearwater vice-president Eric Marshall tells us. And our new Clearwater Executive Director, Jeff Rumpf, will be introduced at a lively meeting of the outgoing Board.

It's the election, so there will be a Board candidate Q&A and an opportunity to meet the people who "steer the ship." Lunch is stone soup and potluck.

There will be a SCC/WWT (Sloop Club Congress /Ways to Work Together) workshop (Pete's suggested topic is expanding and diversifying our membership).

There will also be a workshop to increase opportunities for member participation in Clearwater. Artwork from school children and the newly created Ed Box for onboard the Woody Guthrie will be on display. We'd like the Woody to be at the dock, available for inspection of the new deck and conversation about program.

There will be a Circle of Song tent where family music and activities will take place until lunch time. During lunch, the Circle tent will turn into a round robin until the HRSS Reunion, and the meeting will end with a Hudson River Sloop Singer Reunion.

All in all, it will be a big day for Clearwater and our river, so join us and be a part of the process.



# What's Happening When

Sundays at the Beacon Sloop Club, **Farmers' Market** 10am-4pm. Local cheeses, eggs, pasta, bread, lamb & mushroom spring rolls.

Aug 12, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Archaeology Open House at Croton Point Nature Center.** See exhibits & find out what the local archaeology organization does. Info: 862-5297.

Aug 25, Sat, 2pm, **"Of Logs and Leaf Litter"** program at Croton Point Nature Center. Join Park Naturalist Scott Williamson to seek out salamanders, sow bugs, spiders and similar creatures. Info: 862-5297.

Sept 3, Mon, **Labor Day** and the start of a new program year. Make it count for the River!

Sept 21, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the third Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Welcome the new season as we look at what we've done and look ahead to what's coming for Riverlovers. Check our website for the latest info, at [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org).

Sept 29, Sat, am-pm, **Clearwater Annual Gathering, at the Beacon Sloop Club.** Lots of things happening. Check out the article elsewhere in this issue, or see [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org) for more details.

Oct 13, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Robin & Linda Williams & Their Fine Group.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: [www.walkaboutclearwater.org](http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org) or call 914-242-0374.

## Coffeehouse Starts 20<sup>th</sup> Season

The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse, founded by Pete Seeger in 1984 as an inland musical arm of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, inaugurates the 2007-2008 season with Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group on Saturday, October 13, 2007.

John Gorke will appear on November 10, followed by Sol y Canto on December 8. Red Molly will be there on January 12, and February 9 brings us Joe Cookson and Pat Victor. Old favorite John McCutcheon is coming on March 8, and the Ebony Hillbillies are scheduled for April 12. The season will wind up on May 10 with a traditional Phil Ochs Night.

Doors open at 6:45pm for a singalong with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus, and the concerts begin at 7:30pm at the Memorial United Methodist Church in White Plains. Tickets can be purchased by credit card via [www.walkaboutclearwater.org](http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org) or by calling 800-838-3006. Non-credit card purchasers can call 914-603-3383. Bring your friends for an evening of great fun and entertainment.

Continued from page 1

is the time of year when saltwater species can travel farther in the Hudson River and we are most likely to find unusual species in the net. Like all good responsible seiners, after we caught, observed, counted and recorded our finds, we immediately returned them to the river. Gunnar and I had an unexpectedly enjoyable evening at Mother's Lap and we were sorry that our Riverlover friends were not able to join us. Thanks again to Scott, Lynn and Kerry.

### *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 2007 to: Riverlovers, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

### **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.

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 write to Riverlovers, Inc., P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Together we can do a lot!

### Riverlovers Officers

President:	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112
Vice Pres. (programs):	Robin Fox	271-6088
Co-Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Co-Secretary:	Leesa Thompson	528-0098
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396
President-Emeritus	Eric Marshall	827-3696



## 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	Robin Fox	271-6088
Publicity		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

Web Page: [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org)

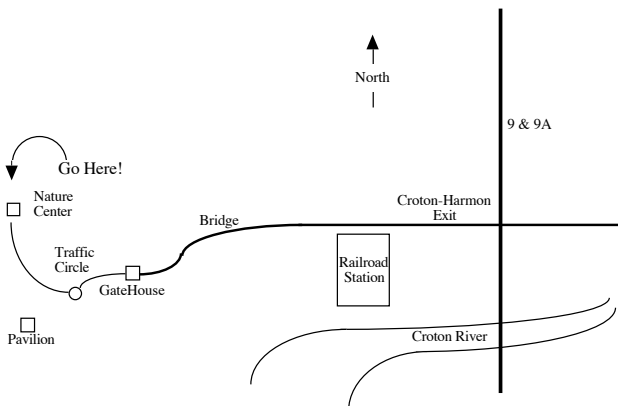
### Newsletter Submissions

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

August-September Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Robin Fox, Daria Gregg, Eric Marshall

## Season's Inaugural Monthly Potluck



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

**Friday, September 21, 2007**

**6:30pm**

**Croton Point Nature Center**