



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 22, Number 8-9, August-September 2009

Riverlovers Annual Sail August 27

Mark your calendars! The Riverlovers annual sail on the Clearwater is scheduled for Thursday, August 27 from 5 to 8 pm from Verplanck. The sail is an hour earlier than usual because they are transiting to West Point that night.

Volunteers, especially ShadFest volunteers, new and old, are always welcome. Make your reservation now, while there's still room. Call Robin (271-6088) or Bill (238-8240) to secure your spot. Last year it was a lovely sunset sail from Verplanck. We are hoping for a repeat performance. It's always a great experience!

Another ShadFest Is History!

by Robin Fox

This one, on May 17th, was special in its own way—Riverlovers had no shad to serve! Huge construction vehicles, large pieces of bulkhead and machinery took up some of our customary space due to the repairs being made on the seawall which surrounds the Point. We moved the Westchester County sound stage up the slope nearer the main part of the festival. The Park guys put many picnic tables in a half circle in front of the stage, inviting an audience. Everyone seemed to like the new arrangement.

The Riverlovers' 19th Annual ShadFest was on many counts a success thanks to the participation of members of Riverlovers—for organizing, shopping, checking and double-checking details, lining up vendors and activists, cooking, serving, setting up and taking down, lots of well-done work! Thanks to Ferry Sloops for adding their outreach tent to the gathering and a bunch of wonderful extra hands to the cooking/serving, and to Beacon Sloop Club for bringing their solar power panel truck that powered the stage ALL DAY! Lots of people were "powered" by the famous Beacon Sloop Club vegetarian chili, eaten to the last bean.

The day started out with rain and remained quite cool and breezy, so the turnout was not spectacular, but the stream of hardy souls who showed up throughout the day enjoyed an uncrowded festival. They had a great time browsing the crafts fair, and talking to the various interest groups. Chris Letts of the Hudson River Foundation, one of the festival sponsors, was able to plank a limited amount of shad which was offered for sampling, along with some pickled and smoked shad. Arm-of-the-Sea Theater performed their new show titled "Mutual Strangers: Henry Hudson and the River

that Discovered Him." The ShadFest cooks served up bluefish and other festival food all day to hungry festival goers.

Special thanks to Joe DiMauro at Mt. Kisco Seafood for donating the bluefish—every last piece was sold! Every drop of delicious donated Black Cow coffee was sold too. Thanks to Walkabout Clearwater for donating the bulk of the soda and water. Thanks go to Chris Letts and the Hudson River Foundation for the shad samples, and thanks to them for underwriting a share of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, and the tent which covers Chris Letts' cooking, as well as Tom Lake's and Barry Keegan's participation.

Of course, a million thanks to the Westchester County Parks for their help in a million ways. The Parks crew did an even better job than last year when it seemed like the best ever. They were all over—setting up the stage, directing traffic, always agreeable.

The wonderful musicians: Solar Punch, The Hastings Bluesmothers, the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus and Lightning Screamed from Gertrude, all donated their performances. Comments from the audience were that it was the best lineup of music!

As always, all profits from the ShadFest will go to local environmental initiatives and the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

Thank You, Gunnar

It's been three years already, but it seems like forever, doesn't it. Riverlovers need to say a few words of thanks for all the effort and enthusiasm that Gunnar brought to the organization. He performed multiple roles and responsibilities, and he made a number of things happen.

Under his leadership, we tried some new things and we revitalized some old things. Eagle Watch participation was a big success, and we brought in cultural and educational programs for our members and the public. Gunnar and Robin took the lead in our popular annual ShadFest event, earning money to support ourselves and Clearwater.

Pay your dues now—support our river! \$15 Individual & \$20 Family

It cost \$7.60 a year to send you the *Riverlovers Currents*. Please consider adding at least that much to your annual dues. Support your Newsletter!

Helm-Changing At Riverlovers

by Gunnar Andersen

Welcome, Warren Lindholm, as the incoming president of Riverlovers!



Photo by Beverly Dyckman

At the June meeting Warren Lindholm put up his name for president. Warren has been a Riverlover for many years, participating in various activities including the ShadFest and Eagle Watch. Warren has organized kayaking trips for Riverlovers and often sets up his telescope after the Riverlovers meetings. I will gradually turn over presidential responsibilities to Warren, so please give him all your support.

Before Warren volunteered to take on the presidency, I started a discussion about merging Riverlovers with Ferry Sloops. Although a majority of the people at the meeting favored the idea, it seemed like we were trying to force the issue simply because no one was willing to be president after I retire in September. The two groups have much in common, including meeting in the same place, but the basic thrust of the groups differ. Ferry Sloops are focused on sailing and consequently must dedicate much energy to the maintenance of their boat. Ferry Sloops has higher dues and spends much time training members in sailing. Riverlovers focuses on environmental education with films, lectures and field trips. Riverlovers were also concerned about the higher dues that Ferry Sloops would require if we merged. Few Riverlovers were interested in sailing.

So as a result, I am dropping the idea of merging, and welcome our new president. Ferry Sloops and Riverlovers continue as separate organizations that participate in many activities together—the River Day at Van Cortlandt Manor being one example. We'll continue to support each other.

Walkabout Coffeehouse 22nd Season Coming

Here's a season of "something OLD (our long-time association with our wonderful friends Magpie, Kim & Reggie, Jay & Molly), something NEW (The Dave Rowe Trio, super Maine-based musicians), something BORROWED (Ronny Cox who is perhaps best known for his movie career—'Deliverance,' 'Star Trek, The Next Generation,' etc. (also a su-

perb, accomplished musician), and something BLUE (Guy Davis, the best)."

The new Coffeehouse season will be inaugurated starting October 10, 2009 as follows: October 10—MAGPIE; November 14—THE DAVE ROWE TRIO; December 12—KIM & REGGIE HARRIS; January 9—JAY UNGAR & MOLLY MASON; February 13—GARNET ROGERS; March 13—RONNY COX; April 10—EMMA'S REVOLUTION / SARA THOMSEN (double bill); May 8—GUY DAVIS. Treat yourself to a real treat!

Get your tickets by credit card: call 800-838-3006, or www.walkaboutclearwater.org. If you use a check or cash: e-mail billchestnut@hotmail.com or call 914-603-3383.

Natural Gas And Hydrofracking

Gas and oil drilling in New York began 150 years ago, soon after the first well was dug in western Pennsylvania. There are now over ten thousand gas and oil wells monitored by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Plans are now afoot to employ a drilling process developed years ago by Halliburton that will access large amounts of additional natural gas.

The drilling process is called horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or hydrofracking, and the source is the geological formation called Marcellus Shale. The formation is located 5000 to 9000 feet below ground and covers 31 million acres in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York.

There may be as much as 4000 trillion cubic feet or more of natural gas in the shale field, compared to a national production level of 30 trillion cubic feet per year. Even if we recovered only a third of that, it could supply the entire country for over 40 years.

After drilling down several miles, the gas is freed for extraction by injecting one to three million gallons per well of a slurry consisting of water, sand, chemicals and an oil such as canola. The chemicals used in this high-pressure injection are kept secret, supposedly for proprietary reasons, but more likely because toxic and carcinogenic substances are employed. The slurry is generally withdrawn as wastewater, and stored in open pits where it evaporates.

A Supplemental General Environmental Impact Study must be completed and approved by Governor Patterson, but there is jockeying in the Department of Environmental Conservation between the Divisions of Water and Mineral Resources. Miles of pipe, transport rigs, road networks, noise and odors are involved, and they will disturb wildlife and land, and threaten water supplies. Pipe must be laid about ten feet below the surface to avoid thermal changes.

When the chemical slurry is withdrawn from the well, it is considered toxic waste water. Millions of gallons of it will be produced from each wellfield, and some of it can overflow the storage pits, leak into surface water or into groundwater. EPA estimates that about half of the wells will leak some slurry into groundwater supplies.

What price must the public pay to satisfy our insatiable appetite for energy and fossil fuel? Who profits the most from the environmental and health damage this activity will cause? Can we justify continuing to contaminate our dwindling water resources? Are we even asking these questions?

Adapted from the Beacon Sloop Club's "Broadside"



What's Happening When

Daily at 11:11am, Sat at 9am & 2pm on WAMC and upstate affiliates, **The Clearwater Moment**. Snippets of news, history & song. Turn on, tune in.

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

July 30, Thurs, 8pm, **WNET Channel 13 presents 'Pete Seeger Celebrates 90th birthday.'** Catch the moment if you missed it—re-live it if you didn't!

Aug 27, Thurs, 5-8pm, **Riverlovers Annual Sail aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater**. Sail into the sunset from Verplanck. Check our website for details or call Robin or Bill. Claim your ShadFest reward for helping to make our big annual event a success.

Sept 2, Wed, 6:30pm, **Ferry Sloop Meeting & Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Our sister organization and sailing group shares a home, a mission and some activities with us. Info: www.ferrysloop.org.

How Green Is Your Furniture?

Most furniture is made from wood from the tropics, so your chair or chest may have played a role in rainforest deforestation or the loss of wildlife habitat. In addition, furniture is often made with chemicals that release unhealthy fumes when the furniture is new.

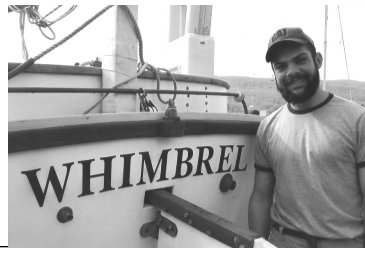
What should you do? Start by looking for furniture made of wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which develops worldwide standards for sustainable forestry and certifies timber operations following its guidelines. Local furniture stores usually stock some FSC-certified products, and many manufacturers now sell them online.

As an alternative to conventional wood, bamboo furniture is strong, resilient and usually harvested from sustainable sources. An eco-friendly furniture framing choice is stainless steel, which is usually recycled. Many furniture designers are now using reclaimed timber and recycled materials in their products.

Another major issue with traditional furniture is pollution from the synthetic chemicals used to produce it. Formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, is found in furniture made from pressed wood and particle board, and is also present in many types of glues and resins used as a binder.

Synthetic flame retardant, commonly added to foam filler materials, has been linked to human nervous system and reproductive disorders, and has been banned in California. Non-toxic alternatives are readily available to manufacturers, so choose carefully. Look for water-based glues and tongue and groove joints.

A number of manufacturers are now committed to non-toxic and FSC-certified products. Mass-marketer Ikea has committed to using less-toxic materials and is also a big buyer of FSC-certified wood. Buy wisely, and protect the planet as well as yourself.



Will Briggs, President of our sister organization, Ferry Sloops, invites you to come for a sail on the Whimbrel, out of Half Moon Bay.

Photo by Beverly Dyckman

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 2009 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.
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
Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
Publicity		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

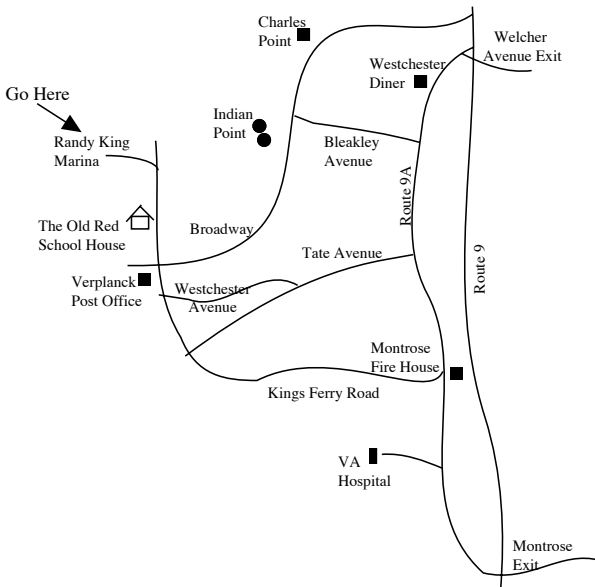
Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

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: Gunnar Andersen, Robin Fox

Riverlovers Annual Clearwater Sail



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

Thursday, August 27, 2009
5 – 8 pm
Randy King Marina, Verplanck