



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 25, Number 8-9, August-September 2012

Message From The President

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Summer.

I'd like to thank Bob Reardon and Leesa Thompson who helped, along with me, on the Riverkeeper-sponsored Riversweep clean-up on June 2, 2012. With other volunteers, quite a few tons of trash were cleaned from beaches on the Hudson River, and debris was removed from a construction site in Croton Point Park. Afterwards the volunteers enjoyed a box lunch in the Ossining park near the train station. We were also treated to a music concert. For me, this was a rewarding experience in participating in cleaning up the Hudson River we all love.

The Annsville Creek kayak trip on June 10 was wonderful and scenic, with moderate weather and tides rising. As in other years we went up as far up the creek as we could (this is a tidal estuary), with one challenging tight turn.

The Constitution Marsh trip in Phillipstown was successful with Riverlovers and relatives canoeing in the reed channels. We saw a pair of resident bald eagles near the train tracks. We heard the beautiful calls of marsh wrens. Afterward Bob, Leesa and I explored the trail east of the marsh. We first came under the Route 9D bridge with its 100 foot steel arches. For a bridge enthusiast this was quite spectacular. Then we followed the trail to the waterfall with water sliding at an angle on the sloped rocky outcropping. This truly is a hidden treasure.

Our first sail on the Solar Wind is booked up for Sunday, July 29th. Our second sail on one of our member's boats is scheduled for Sunday, August 26th at 2pm. We sail out of Senasqua Park. Call me to reserve a spot on the boat and for directions to the park at 914-319-3379 or my listed phone.

Bill Flank has arranged with Clearwater for Riverlovers' favorite activity, a sail on Sloop Clearwater on August 12. It will be a Sunday evening sunset sail at King Marine in Verplanck at 5:30pm for boarding. One of the advantages of membership in Riverlovers is a low-cost sail on the Sloop Clearwater. We currently ask for a suggested donation of \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members, which we share with our parent organization. Please call me for reservations as we are filling up fast.

We will donate to Clearwater and Riverlovers in memory of our dear friend and founding member Terry Arnold. Both of these groups were dear to our friend Terry. Due to space limitations, if you bring food on board, sandwiches and light finger-foods are recommended.

Bill Flank has arranged an exciting whitewater rafting/canoe trip on the upper Delaware River on Sunday, September 9th. We will meet at 9 AM at the Annsville Paddlesport parking lot (over the Annsville Creek bridge north of Peekskill, three-fourths of the way around the Annsville traffic circle onto Route 6 and an immediate left into the parking lot) to car pool to Pond Eddy, PA. Bill is group leader and needs to have payment ahead of time to make reservations. The cost is \$40. Call Bill at 914-238-8240 for details.

For the Sept 21st Potluck meeting we have arranged for John Phillips from the Westchester Parks Dept. to give a talk on the archaeology of Croton Point Park. This should be an interesting and informative evening, so plan to join us.

In late September or early October we plan to kayak or canoe the Great Swamp in eastern Putnam county. I went a few times this Summer and it's magical. It's like you're in another world. The swamp is slowly flowing water to the East Branch of the Croton River, and is virtually the length of Putnam County. Let me know if you would like to join us, so we can plan details and arrangements.

In later October we want to return to the Rockefeller Preserve. It's a big, varied and fascinating place for hiking, and we'll have more details later on. This should be an interesting season coming up, so plan to be part of the action.

Fracking And Water-The Real Cost

If you want to know how much water is going into and out of a typical shale-gas well in the Marcellus shale formation, here are some of the numbers to consider.

80,000 Gallons – That's how much is needed for drilling down into the well to get it started.

3,800,000 Gallons – The amount of water needed per day for hydraulic fracturing in the shale formation to release the natural gas.

1,000,000 Gallons – Fracking water returning per day to the surface as the operation proceeds.

200 Trucks – The amount of transportation needed to carry one million gallons

(Sources: Dept. of Energy, Argonne National Lab)

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

It cost \$8.50 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!

Major Victory on Nuclear Waste

Clearwater and its allies claimed a major victory in the multi-faceted campaign to close Indian Point recently when the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., ruled favorably in tossing out a dangerous Nuclear Regulatory Commission rule that had allowed it to relicense aging nuclear reactors without addressing the risks of storing highly radioactive spent fuel on site. They found the NRC didn't adequately consider the hazards of on-site storage, which could hamper the commission as it considers relicensing Indian Point and other nuclear power plants. Previously, the NRC had excluded consideration of radioactive waste storage from the relicensing process. The NRC will now have to do a review before they decide on Indian Point's relicensing.



More than 1,500 tons of radioactive waste are stored, unsecured, at Indian Point, where it has been leaking into the Hudson—and if Entergy were to be successful in relicensing its reactors for another 20 years, it would add an additional 1,000 tons. Because of this victory, the NRC must confront this real and dangerous risk.

Hearings on the proposed relicensing of Indian Point are scheduled to begin October 15th. Clearwater, Riverkeeper and the New York State DEC will be arguing on your behalf that the plant should close, to eliminate the risk to the public and stop ongoing damage to the Hudson River.

Funding Climate Change Denial

ConocoPhillips acknowledges on its Web site that humans are contributing to climate change:

“We recognize that human activity, including the burning of fossil fuels, is contributing to increased concentrations of greenhouse gas (GHG) in the atmosphere that can lead to adverse changes in global climate.”

On the other hand, the company's ratio of pro-climate to anti-climate contributions tells a different story. According to the Union of Concerned Scientist's (UCS) recent report, they spend over 15 times more on the anti-climate side. “A Climate of Corporate Control” digs behind the corporate-responsibility rhetoric and finds the long arm of money that underlies the report's subtitle: “How Corporations Have Influenced the U.S. Dialogue on Climate Science and Policy.”

The report scrutinized 28 of the companies most engaged in climate change policy. Among other things, they examined the companies' public relations materials, their annual reports, shareholder actions, congressional engagements, and funding to outside organizations. After analyzing the data, they categorized each company as “Consistent,” “Contradictory,” or “Obstructionist.”

ConocoPhillips ended up in the top third of the “Contradictory” category, which actually puts them in a better light than 17 other companies with lower rankings. Every company on the list has made public statements of concern about climate change, but only a handful (*e.g.*, NRG Energy, NIKE, and AES Corporation) are backing up their pronouncements with action.

On the other hand, based on the information UCS was able to access, half of the companies misrepresented climate science in their public communications, and the majority of them found other ways to spread misinformation. They lobbied politicians, joined trade groups and funded conservative think tanks leading the denial campaign.

The actions of many of these companies come right from the tobacco industry playbook, where the end goal is delaying sensible regulations that protect our health and safety for as long as possible. Eventually, companies generally find that complying with new rules is not as burdensome as they first imagined, and many of them actually make a larger profit doing so. But that doesn't prevent them from obfuscating the science to create confusion and delay.

Cuomo's Fracking Experiment

The Governor is proposing to conduct a dangerous experiment. He wants to try fracking on a limited basis to see how it would work out, without setting realistic requirements and regulations to safeguard health and safety.

New York State is unprepared to oversee fracking—whether it's permitting 50 wells or 50,000 wells. The state doesn't require drillers to responsibly handle waste, evaluate public health or cumulative impacts, ban any of the toxic chemicals used by frackers, or assess the economic costs and benefits to communities. Given these glaring deficiencies, Governor Cuomo should not prepare to permit fracking anywhere in New York.

Whatever Governor Cuomo decides to do about fracking, in the Southern Tier or statewide, it's going to cement his environmental legacy. So our recommendation for the Governor is simple—be a hero for New York's water and citizenry, and proactively protect, rather than reactively try to remediate the mess that is sure happen if this dangerous experiment is allowed to proceed.

Court Upholds EPA Regulation

In a major victory, a federal appeals court has recently upheld the 2009 EPA finding that greenhouse gas emissions need to be regulated under the Clean Air Act. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit called EPA's decision “unambiguously correct.”

The three-judge panel unanimously rejected arguments from several states, industry organizations, and conservative groups. They had contended that in deciding to regulate greenhouse gases, EPA improperly relied on assessments from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the U.S. Global Change Research Program, and the National Research Council rather than on individual published papers.

The court stated that “It makes no difference that much of the scientific evidence in large part consisted of ‘syntheses’ of individual studies and research.” The court further stated that “This is how science works. EPA is not required to re-prove the existence of the atom every time it approaches a scientific question.”

Also upheld was EPA's 2010 regulation limiting CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. Some Republicans are now calling for Congress to rewrite the Clean Air Act to stop EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions. What a mindless idea!



What's Happening When

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

Aug 12, Sun, noon-5pm, **Beacon Sloop Club Corn Festival**, at the Beacon waterfront.

Aug 12, Sun, 5:30pm, **Riverlovers annual Sunday evening sunset sail on the Clearwater sloop**. Contact Warren to sign up for this annual highlight. More details on page 1.

Aug 24, Fri, 7pm, **Michael Eck in a Woody Guthrie Tribute Concert**. At Beacon Sloop Club.

Aug 25, Sat, 10am, **Living River Regatta - Woody Guthrie Cup**. At Beacon-Newburgh waterfronts. Boat entries and support sought for this fund-raising event. Info: www.woodyguthriecup.org or davideb@aol.com.

Sept 9, Sun, 9am, **Riverlovers whitewater rafting/canoe trip on upper Delaware River**. Meet at Annesville Paddlesports to carpool. Advance payment (\$40) required. Call Bill Flank at 914-238-8240 for reservations. See page 1 for more details.

Sept 21, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center**. Talk on archaeology of Croton Point Park by John Phillips of Westchester Parks Dept. Info: www.Riverlovers.org

Electric vs Gasoline Car Emissions

Electric vehicles (EVs) burn no gasoline and have no tailpipe emissions, but producing the electricity used to charge them does generate global warming emissions. The amount of these emissions varies significantly based on the mix of energy sources used to power a region's electricity grid.

For example, coal-fired power plants produce nearly twice the global warming emissions of natural gas-fired power plants, while renewable sources like wind and solar power produce virtually no emissions at all.

A recent Union of Concerned Scientists report compares the global warming emissions from EVs with those from gasoline-powered vehicles and finds that:

- Nationwide, EVs charged from the electricity grid produce lower global warming emissions than the average compact gasoline-powered vehicle (with a fuel economy of 27 miles per gallon)—even when electricity is produced primarily from coal in regions with the “dirtiest” electricity grids.

- In regions with the “cleanest” electricity grids, EVs produce lower global warming emissions than even the most fuel-efficient hybrids.

- EVs charged entirely from renewable sources like wind and solar power produce virtually no global warming emissions.

Nearly half (45 percent) of Americans live in the “cleaner” regions—where an EV has lower global warming emissions than a 50 mpg gasoline-powered vehicle, topping even the best gasoline hybrids on the market. Charging an EV in the cleanest electricity regions, which include Califor-

nia, New York (except Long Island), the Pacific Northwest, and parts of Alaska, yields global warming emissions equivalent to a gasoline-powered vehicle achieving over 70 mpg.

The bottom line is that an EV driver could save 6,100 gallons of gasoline and nearly \$13,000 over the life of the vehicle relative to today's average compact gasoline car, assuming a national average electricity price and \$3.50-per-gallon gasoline.

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 2012 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		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

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
 August-September Newsletter Contributors: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

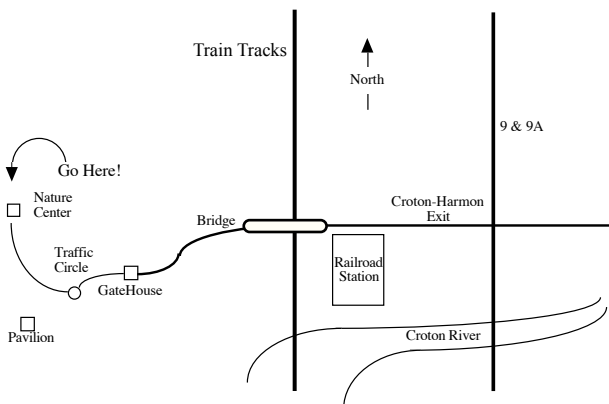
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and archaeology talk



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, September 21, 2012
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center