



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 26, Number 12, December 2013

Message From The President

Continuing our outdoor activities program into the Fall, Riverlovers did a short walk on Saturday, November 2nd at the Annsville Preserve, across the bay from the Annsville Paddle Sports Center. There are various marker signs describing the Hudson River and the Annsville Bay. We met at 1pm at the Peekskill Riverfront Green Park near the Rotunda, then drove to the gateway to the Preserve. The panoramic scenery was impressive, and we had a chance to learn some history from the several markers along the way.

At our November 15th Potluck, we were proud to present our own Cynthia Andersen, who gave a PowerPoint presentation of Art and Photography of the Civil War. We had a good showing of attendance; and Cynthia did a great job of researching and presenting an illustrated art history of the 19th century, focusing on the Civil War.

Daria read an acknowledgment letter from Clearwater for Riverlovers' contribution in memory of founding member Terry Arnold. An additional contribution was recently made for 2013, and we should get a thank-you soon for that.

Looking ahead, to the December 20th Potluck, we'll screen PBS Frontline's "Climate of Doubt." Correspondent John Hockenberry shows how various organizations have successfully promoted a denial of Climate Change.

For the January Potluck we will screen, from the PBS Nature series, the "Radioactive Wolves of Chernobyl." This program shows how wildlife is returning to the exclusion zone surrounding the crippled Chernobyl power plant. The program we will screen for the February Potluck is the official selection of the 2013 Sundance Festival, "Pandora's Promise." This might change your mind about nuclear power in the rapidly encroaching global warming crisis.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the ever-popular EagleFest is coming in early February, and gives Riverlovers a great opportunity to advertise ourselves. This should be an interesting season. Be part of Riverlovers, and bring your friends to our activities. Thank you for your support.

No Confidence In "Waste Confidence"

For decades the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said that it "had confidence" that there would be a solution for the nation's high-level radioactive wastes "when needed". Over the years many of us have argued that having confidence is not the same as having a plan to deal with 2,000 tons of nuclear waste that remains deadly for 240,000 years.

In 2012, New York State Attorney General Schneiderman and others took the NRC to court; and the "Waste Confidence" rule was overturned because the NRC has failed to demonstrate that the waste will be managed safely, and has not adequately considered the environmental impacts of additional waste that new and relicensed reactors would generate. As a result, the NRC is now taking public comments to formulate a new rule that will be issued in 2014.

These twelve Waste Confidence meetings are scheduled to take place across the country to address the NRC's environmental review of waste storage, which the agency was forced to prepare only because of a successful federal court challenge to its "waste confidence rule" by Clearwater, Riverkeeper, and the State of New York. Before that challenge, the public was prohibited from raising concerns about nuclear waste in any NRC license proceeding. This landmark legal victory gives the public an opportunity to influence this important decision about the risk—now and into the future—posed by nuclear waste.

Consider these facts:

- More than 2,000 tons of nuclear waste are stored on the banks of the Hudson River, just 35 miles from midtown Manhattan.
- Almost all of the fuel rods ever used at Indian Point are still there, sitting in two tightly racked, dangerously overcrowded 40-foot deep pools of water. Only a small amount of onsite waste is stored in dry cask storage silos.
- Two of Indian Point's waste pools have leaked carcinogenic isotopes into the groundwater and the Hudson River. The pools are vulnerable and housed in unprotected industrial buildings, not in hardened containment structures, as are the reactors.
- All this radioactive waste stored on a site at the intersection of two earthquake fault lines poses an imminent danger to the approximately 20 million people who live or work within 50 miles of the plant.

Clearwater continues to work to prevent the relicensing of Indian Point, but everyone's help is needed to support the effort to close this aged, leaking, outdated, nuclear power plant. With your support we will win the battle to close Indian Point and work to promote the transition to a sustainable energy future.

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

Art And Photography Of The Civil War

by Cynthia Andersen

I was very heartened at the turnout for my presentation of "Art and Photography of the Civil War" on Friday evening, November 15th at the Nature Center in Croton Point Park. My goal was to show how the Civil War, which redefined America forever, changed American art. The war's grim reality, captured through the new medium of photography, was laid bare. Photographers were quick to recognize the pictorial opportunities offered by the war, and over the four years of the war they honed their skills working with a demanding medium and bulky equipment.

America would no longer be seen as the perfect pristine landscape portrayed by the Hudson River School of painters. Artists now painted landscapes which told a version of the story bringing together metaphor and visual imagery (stormy weather, volcanic eruptions, and celestial portents) to create a war-inflected layer of meaning. Landscape imagery described the growing destabilization of the country.

The Civil War provided American artists with an opportunity to witness the combat firsthand, either in uniform or as civilian observers. Some artists weaved the war into works of art that considered the human narrative—the daily experience of soldiers, slaves and families left behind. The best of artists, like Winslow Homer and several of his colleagues passed over the battlefield narratives and individual heroics of history painting to focus on the common soldier. They strove for the metaphorical high ground by addressing the grief and ambiguity of this fratricidal war, seeking redemption and grasping at hope that this shattered country could be put back together.

Finally, I could not have done my presentation without the constant support; both psychological and technological, of my husband Gunnar, and many Riverlovers friends.

Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

by Daria Gregg

This project presents an imminent danger to safety, health and property in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties! The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is reviewing a major expansion to Spectra Energy Corporation's Algonquin natural gas pipeline and compressor stations (AIM Project). Here are some of the issues:

- High pressure 42-inch diameter transmission pipeline near Indian Point is 44% larger than the current pipe.
- Dangerous route. From Stony Point, the proposed new pipeline may go under the Hudson River, enter Westchester, and intersect with proposed mega-voltage electric lines, near Indian Point's 40 years' worth of spent nuclear fuel rods, all in close proximity to the Ramapo faultline.
- Public safety risk. Explosions have occurred in both compressor stations and gas pipelines. An explosion at or near Indian Point would be an unimaginable catastrophe.
- Algonquin pipeline will transport Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale gas which contains high levels of contaminants including radon, the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the U.S.
- Noisy, polluting compressor stations proposed for Stony Point and Southeast expose people, pets and wildlife to many tons of highly toxic emissions per year.

- Health effects associated with compressor station emissions: nosebleeds, headaches, dizziness, skin rashes, respiratory, developmental and neurological problems, breast, kidney and liver cancer.

- Risk to home values. The proximity of the high pressure pipelines and potential for an explosion could negatively impact your property, diminish its value, and reduce your quality of life.

To learn about the risks to you, your family and your property, attend an educational forum about the pipeline expansion. Important information will be presented by independent experts who will discuss pipelines, emissions and health impacts from pipeline projects.

Two forums will be held. For more information, please go to www.sape2016.org

Wednesday, December 11th
Hendrick Hudson Free
Library
185 Kings Ferry Road
Montrose, NY 10548
914-739-5654
7:00 – 9:00pm

Thursday, December 12th
Mahopac Library
666 Route 6
Mahopac, NY 10541
845-628-2009
7:00 - 9:00pm

Walkabout Coffeehouse—Garnet Rogers

Continuing a stellar lineup this season, December 14th at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse will feature the renowned Garnet Rogers in a rescheduled concert that was snowed out last February. The second Saturday of every month in the Fall and Spring features terrific entertainment and a folksy environment, so plan on making this a regular habit. Great people, great music, refreshments, free parking, a chance to join in with the Walkabout Chorus in a Singalong every month—that's a combination that's hard to beat. And you'll be helping to support Clearwater as well as folk music! See page 3 listing for more info.

EPA Sued On Toxic Emissions

In a move to overcome undercounting, several community organizations along the Gulf Coast have just filed a lawsuit to force the EPA to review the way it measures toxic air pollution from oil refineries and petrochemical plants in the region. Air Alliance Houston and three other groups charged in District Court that EPA's formulas for estimating emissions of benzene, butadiene and other pollutants are outdated and inaccurate.

Recent independent studies at Marathon, Shell, and BP refineries measured emissions at levels 10 to 100 times higher than estimates based on methods such facilities currently use to report releases into the air. EPA has not reviewed its methodology for calculating air emissions since 1998, and for liquid storage tanks since 2006.

The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to review and, if necessary, modify the formulas at least once every three years. Staff shortages and lack of funding are responsible for many of the enforcement problems that make it difficult for EPA to effectively regulate pollution under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Political battles over budgets are just a smokescreen to hide industry's sneak assault on people's health for the sake of higher profits.



What's Happening When

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

Nov 27, Wed, First night of Hanukkah celebration.

Nov 28, Thurs, **Thanksgiving holiday**. Share our bounty.

Dec 13, Fri, 6pm, **Beacon Sloop Club Holiday Sing**, at the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse, next to Beacon train station.

Dec 14, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Garnet Rogers**. A big performer in more ways than one, he puts on a memorable show you don't want to miss. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets via credit card (\$18) at 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: call Bill Chestnut at 914-603-3383 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Dec 20, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Holiday Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center**, featuring PBS Frontline's "Climate of Doubt." Correspondent John Hockenberry shows how various extremist organizations have promoted a denial of climate change. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Dec 25, Wed, **Christmas holiday**. Hope for peace everywhere in the world.

Jan 1, Wed, New Year's Day. Resolve to do better this coming year (and pay your Riverlovers dues too!).

Jan 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers First-of-the-New-Year Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center, featuring a screening of "Radioactive Wolves of Chernobyl," from the PBS Nature Series. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Water Filters Save Lives

Scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Labs have developed a cheap, effective way to provide safe drinking water to 60 million people in Bangladesh threatened with arsenic poisoning from village water sources. Arsenic filters were created from coal ash, the fine gray powdered waste product which piles up in coal-fired power station furnaces.

Arsenic poisoning in Bangladesh has been called one of the largest mass poisonings in human history. Exposure can lead to debilitating lesions and cancer, and is expected to cause 10% of all future adult deaths in this impoverished nation of 130 million people.

After coating the coal ash with an arsenic-attracting-compound, it is packaged in tea bag-sized pouches and distributed in villages, one pouch per family per day. There are millions of contaminated wells in Bangladesh. Water from them can be poured through the filter and safely consumed.

In the U.S., where more than 30 million people don't have access to water that meets EPA standards for safe

drinking water, largely in the west and southwest, this may be an affordable way to remove arsenic. Many water sources in these areas are contaminated with high levels of arsenic, but local officials there don't have money to spend on treatment plants. This development from one of our National Labs may just provide a life-saving solution, although it's hard to understand how people could tolerate being slowly poisoned to death by their drinking water.

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 2014 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		

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

December Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

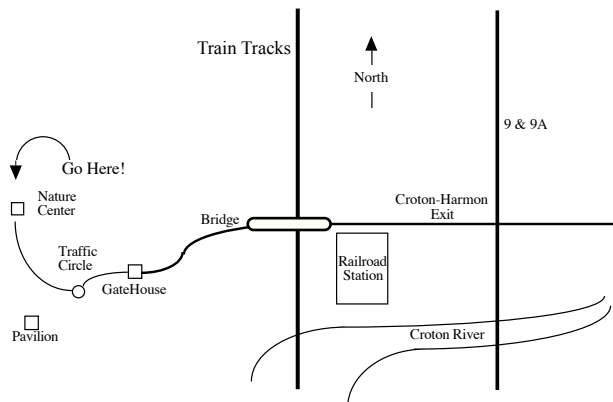
Riverlovers Holiday Potluck and screening of "Climate of Doubt"



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, December 20, 2013

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center