



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 30, Number 12, December 2017

## Message from the President

It's late November, early December. Warm days, cold days, short days, long nights. Are we going to have a warm winter like last year? With one major snow storm! Is this the new normal? Will the CO<sub>2</sub> levels continue to rise??

The Riverlovers visited the Storm King Art Center on a late October weekend. There was a huge line of traffic to get into the Art Center. The Riverlovers marveled at the huge sculptures, the wavy lawn, the whimsical stone walls without mortar, and the creepy creatures in the water. There was a tram running every 15 minutes, so one could get on and get off to explore the art. This is a really large place. We will return next year when the weather is warmer.

We did a hike on the northern section of the Briarcliff Peekskill Trailway. We walked from the Blue Mountain Sportsman Center to Colabaugh Pond Road. We walked on the 1000-foot long wooden walkway, which was covered in moss and lichen. We walked under the huge fallen oak that grew from a 15 foot rock over the trail. This trail extends all the way to Ossining.

For the November Potluck we all enjoyed the BBC special, India—Nature's Wonderland, Part 1. From the ancient lions, singing gibbons, sacred river Ganges, elephants in the tea, and to the living root bridges, room for all these wonders, with a population of over a billion people.

For the December 15 Potluck at 6:30pm in the Croton Point Nature Center, we will screen Part 2 of India—Nature's Wonderland. We will see Village of Cranes, the mask makers of Majula, a rhino encounter, and the man who planted a rainforest.

We talked about visiting the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers. With its 6 galleries and a planetarium, it is one of the largest museums in Westchester County. As the name indicates, the prime interest of the museum is the Hudson River and its environs, including the plant and animal life. Let's visit the museum on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> before the holidays. We could carpool from ShopRite in Croton at 12 noon, and for those who live nearer Yonkers, we will meet at the museum at 1pm. The address of the museum is 511 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY. Call me at 914-319-3379.

For January's Potluck at 6:30 pm, we will screen the Great American Eclipse. We will also make plans for the EagleFest, on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to bring and serve soups and bread for the vendors and volunteers, and also to help out at our outreach table.

Gunnar Andersen suggested we visit the Material Recovery Facility in Yonkers for a tour. It is open on weekdays only. We will decide a date for January. The MRF will educate visitors on the recycling process for Westchester County.

Come to our meetings and 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.

## Global Warming By The Numbers

Here are some chilling statistics from the recent past to think about:

**1** 2016's rank as the hottest year on record

**100%** Increase in intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms since the 1970's

**\$100 billion** Estimated damage by hurricanes in U.S. in a single recent year

**2030** Year by which Glacier National Park will have no glaciers left

**400,000** Square miles of Arctic sea ice that have melted in last 30 years

**15 to 37%** Amount of plant and animal species that global warming could wipe out by mid-century

**6** Number of *former* EPA leaders (you won't find Scott Pruitt among them) who say the U.S. is not doing enough to deal with global warming

**1** Rank of the United States as a global warming polluter

**0** Number of bills passed by Congress to cut global warming pollution

## The Currents They Are A'Changing!

After well over a quarter of a century as editor of *Riverlovers Currents*, Bill Flank is literally moving on. He and Sandy will be relocating in the not-very-distant future to the Riverwoods Retirement Community in Silver Spring, just outside of Washington, so they will be much closer to their children.

On the bright side, Cynthia Andersen, who came up with the *Currents* name back in the early 90's, will be phasing in as the new editor, working with Associate Editor Mel Fitting to continue to produce the outstanding Sloop Club newsletter that Riverlovers has been noted for.

Hail to the new editor, welcome aboard, Fair Winds!

## Stop The Leaks At Indian Point!

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently released its third-quarter inspection report for the Indian Point nuclear power plant. The Westchester County-based plant has experienced o-ring leakage on and off for years, and the NRC says efforts to resolve the issue have not been entirely successful. NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said the issue has persisted for many years, at both Units 2 and 3.

“They had a design change going back to 2003 where the company has tried to resolve this problem,” Sheehan said. “This involves these o-rings that are stainless steel gaskets, very large in size. They are big enough to maintain a tight seal between the reactor vessel head and the reactor vessel itself, and not only do that, but do it under very high temperature and pressure conditions.”

In fact, Indian Point 3 was shut down in June, 2017 for planned maintenance to replace two o-rings, or water seals. “When they started up from the last Unit 3 refueling outage last spring, they started to see a steady increase in unidentified leakage within the containment building,” Sheehan said. “And so they’ve had to switch from the inner o-ring to the outer o-ring, which is not a normal operating condition. And so that’s one example of why this continues to garner some interest.”

Jerry Nappi, spokesman for Indian Point parent company Entergy, responded, “This is an issue that we’ve had recur a few times. We have a plan in place to try and prevent recurrence. I mean, I think one thing folks should know is that this leak of water is entirely contained inside the reactor building. It’s a relatively small leak. There actually is no leak ongoing at this time. There’s two sets of seals to prevent leakage.” (*ed note: There’s now only one, since the inner seal has been leaking for six months.*)

That plan to prevent recurrence, as outlined in the NRC’s quarterly inspection report, includes conducting laser measurement and mapping of the surface defects during the next refueling outage on each unit. (*ed note: So it will continue leaking until then.*) “We have a few new enhancements we’re going to make where I think more closer measurements of the groove in which the seal sits will be made. Engineers are going to update procedures to make sure there’s more adherence to the procedures as they replace these seals periodically,” says Nappi. “And we’re going to ultimately just continue to monitor the situation closely. There’s no safety challenge from this very small leakage and, again, that water is contained inside the building.”

That’s not assuring to Richard Webster, however. He’s the legal director for Riverkeeper. “It’s a big concern for us that this o-ring problem isn’t being solved. It seems like Entergy is trying to ignore the problem rather than solve it,” Webster says. “And it looks like production pressures are leading them to rush the repairs so that they don’t really work. And so we think that what they should do is take the time, take an outage and really try and fix the problem.” (*ed note: Duh!*)

Webster also comments acerbically on Entergy’s plan to prevent leakage recurrence: “It’s certainly too late. Time will tell whether it’s too little.”

Indian Point is closing by 2021, in an agreement reached by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Entergy, and

Riverkeeper and other environmental organizations like Clearwater, as announced last January. In the meantime, the NRC’s Sheehan says there have been no more violations related to the water leaks from o-rings. “They have a limit as far as how much allowable leakage they can get from the reactor vessel, and they have not exceeded that, at this point. But nevertheless, this is an issue that they would obviously like to see put to bed and that we would like to see them fully resolve. And so, we’re pointing out in our quarterly inspection report that this is an issue that warrants continued attention and it’s going to be an area that continues to receive follow-up from the NRC.”

Sheehan notes that the NRC has seen o-ring leakage at other plants, but not to the extent seen at the Buchanan-based Indian Point facility. The litany of problems includes the recent June pump system shutdown, soon after the refueling restart, with repairs putting it back online in July in the middle of the peak demand season. (*ed note: So much for Entergy’s claim of “safe, secure and vital.”*)

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## Pebble Mine vs. Sockeye Salmon

Alaska’s Bristol Bay is home to the world’s most valuable wild salmon fishery—half of the world’s sockeye salmon catch comes from here alone. The bay generates over 14,000 jobs and close to half a billion dollars of revenue for the area and the salmon support thousands of Alaskan Native people who have depended on the fish for centuries.

The Pebble Mine project threatens to destroy those jobs, all that revenue, and an indigenous people’s way of life. This proposed large scale mine would be the largest and most destructive open pit mine in North America. It would be at least 1/3 mile deep, cover an area of over 12 square miles, and generate a monumental 23 billion tons of toxic mining waste that would have to attempt to be contained by a series of dams.

The history of such massive mining projects is not at all promising. The costs are high, and the returns are not. This looming irreversible environmental and sociological catastrophe needs to be stopped from happening. Change.org has started an online petition campaign that is worth supporting.

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## U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions Are Down

The Energy Information Administration reports that energy-related emissions, which are the great majority of U.S. emissions, fell 12% from 2005 to 2015. The not-so-good news is that nearly 70% of these reductions were due to electricity-generating plants shifting from coal to natural gas. While it releases about half as much CO<sub>2</sub> as coal when burned, natural gas is still a fossil fuel that contributes to climate change.

The better news is that the rest of the decline was the result of energy efficiency in homes, industry and transportation, coupled with growing use of renewable energy and some milder weather. This occurred despite the 15% growth in the economy during this period.

Emissions fell by 23% per unit of gross domestic product, due to improved efficiency in transportation and in home appliances, as well as a shift to less energy-intensive industrial production. It’s surprising what we can do when we try, so let’s keep trying.



# 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.

Dec 8, Fri, 6-9pm, **Beacon Sloop Club Holiday Sing**, at 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon. Free admission, bring dessert or finger food to share. Info: Aaron at 914-503-6227.

Dec 9, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Garnet Rogers**. *Upstairs* in the Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets are \$18.00 in advance online at [www.walkaboutclearwater.org](http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org) (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. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Sing with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at its informal Teachabout starting at 6:45pm. Info: [www.WalkaboutClearwater.org](http://www.WalkaboutClearwater.org).

Dec 15, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck Supper** at Croton Point Nature Center. We will screen Part 2 of "India—Nature's Wonderland". Info: [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org).

Jan 11, Thurs, 7pm, **Beacon Sloop Club Winter Lecture Series**. David Rocco will present Mount Beacon Eight-And the Indestructible Man. Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse, at the train station.

Feb 10, Sat, 9am-4pm, **Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest**. Riverlovers serves soup and bread to volunteers at this annual event, so mark the date & plan to sign up to help.

Feb 11, Sun, 3-7pm, **Third Annual Clearwater Gala, honoring Judith Enck & 50 Years of Clearwater Board Volunteers**. At The Garrison, U.S. 9, Garrison, NY. Individual tickets \$250. Info: [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org).

## Why Recycle Paper?

There's virgin or non-recycled paper that's made from virgin wood pulp, i.e., from trees, and then there's recycled paper, which is made from other paper, i.e., waste paper. The quality of recycled paper is the same as the quality of paper made from virgin wood pulp, and sometimes better.

Americans use over 50 million tons of paper annually, and we consume more than 850 million trees a year to make virgin paper. The average American uses about 600 pounds of paper annually, but recycling saves over 200 million trees every year.

The largest industrial user of fuel oil is, surprisingly, the paper industry, but it takes as much as 74% less energy to produce recycled paper than it does to produce virgin paper. What's more, the manufacture of recycled paper produces 74% less air pollution than the manufacture of paper from virgin wood pulp. When it comes to water, the manufacture of recycled paper produces 35% less water pollution than the manufacture of paper from virgin food pulp.

At the end of the day, we in the United States create enough garbage daily to fill the New Orleans Superdome, not once, but twice. And 50% of that is paper which could have been recycled.

The bottom line is clear: We can save trees, energy, water and landfill space—adding up to saving lots of money, and the environment too. There's nothing to lose!

## Pay Your Dues Now—Support Our River

*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 2018 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

Visa       MC       Discover       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](http://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

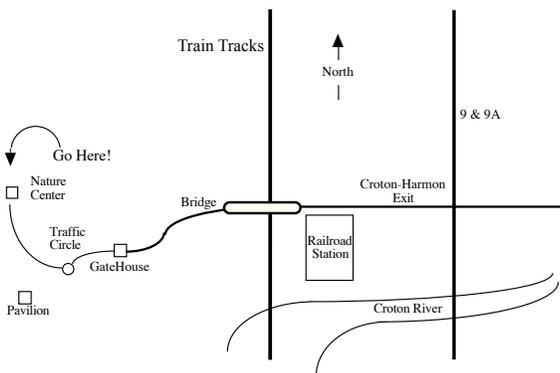
Please send news articles and other items of interest to Riverlovers Currents, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Include your name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted on request.

Back issues of *Riverlovers Currents* are available at our web site, [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org)

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting

December Newsletter Contributors: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

## Riverlovers Monthly Potluck with Screening of *India—Nature's Wonderland (Part 2)*



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

**Friday, December 15, 2017**  
**6:30pm**  
**Croton Point Nature Center**