



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 2, February 2007

Riverlovers Doings

At our well-attended Potluck on Friday, January 12th, Susan put together an edited video of the presentation that Dr. Helen Caldicott made in White Plains in October. Her theme, "Nuclear Power is Not the Answer to Global Warming," is urgently relevant, and the message needs to be heard loud and clear. This needs to be a topic for continuing discussion.

Don't forget that on Sunday, February 11th, we're looking forward to repeating our very successful bread and soup serving activity that we did at last year's Eagle Weekend at Croton Point, and this is set for 1pm. Cynthia is coordinating the arrangements for preparing and serving the food to the visitors coming to the Nature Center programs that day. Help us greet our guests and introduce them to Riverlovers. And looking ahead a little further, our March 9th Potluck will focus on preparations for the ShadFest on May 20th that will involve every one of us, and then some, for our big event of the year.

The next Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse on February 10th at the Memorial Methodist Church in White Plains, will feature Pete to kick off the second half of the Coffeehouse season. That's sure to be a memorable event, so get your tickets early. And check out the lineup for the rest of the Spring season—there are some fabulous entertainers coming to a venue near you.

These evenings, which include an opening singalong starting at 6:45, really are lots of fun and good entertainment. Bring your crowd of friends, as we do, and join in the festivities. You won't be disappointed!

Feedback

Dear Eric, Daria and all you great Riverlovers:

Thanks so much for your annual support. We have a great new Clearwater captain to help Patrick Flynn. Julia Wilson comes on this month to replace Scott Cann, who is off to the west coast.

We appreciate all the helpful things you dedicated volunteers do to help out and raise awareness and money for Clearwater.

Love,
Annie O

A Word From The President

The turnout for the January Potluck was very encouraging. Although the sound was less than perfect during the film (we are learning as we go along), the discussion afterwards was spirited and informative. A lot of the discussion revolved around the many things that we can do in our daily lives to help the environment. We will continue the discussion at future Potlucks.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the eagle watch at Croton Point on Sunday, February 11th at 1pm. Several people have volunteered to make soups and Mrs. Green's has made a donation, but we could use more. Cynthia is coordinating the event, so please call her (914-432-3112) if you can bring bread or soup. This is not one of our regular Potlucks, so do not worry if you are not a soupmaker—just remember to bring yourself! It should be great fun.

As always, check out the website www.riverlovers.org for the latest info on upcoming activities.

January Potluck Report

by Leesa Thompson

All of us enjoyed the January 11th Potluck. Several of our regular attendees were missed. However, some familiar faces made surprise return appearances. Food was plentiful, including a beautiful fruit arrangement in honor of our new President Gunnar.

We all enjoyed watching a very informative taping of Dr. Caldecott's discussion on the impending dangers of global warming which she had presented recently at a public forum. Discussion ensued regarding things we could each do to mitigate these dangers in our own lives. Requests were made for a speaker at an upcoming Potluck who would discuss additional details on where and what to buy with limited funds that would have the greatest impact on limiting effects of global warming in our personal lives.

There will not be a regular February Potluck. Instead, on Sunday February 11th we will be serving soup and bread at the Annual Eagle Watch at Croton Point. Please plan on joining us for this exciting event. Details can be found herein or call Cynthia for additional information and/or to offer to help with cooking/serving soup. Check our new website too.

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

Guide To Political Interference In Science

The Union of Concerned Scientists has announced the creation of the *A to Z Guide to Political Interference in Science*, which is now posted on their website. It documents dozens of examples, with dates and details, of how the federal government has debased science.

In recent years, scientists who work for and advise the federal government have seen their work manipulated, suppressed and distorted, while agencies have systematically limited public and policy maker access to critical scientific information. Outright falsehoods have been fed to the media, and inconvenient facts have been deleted from scientific reports released to the public.

Running the gamut from air pollution to Ground Zero, the *A to Z Guide* showcases a huge number of examples of the misuse of science on issues like childhood lead poisoning, toxic mercury contamination, air and water pollution, public health, endangered species, and even national security.

As the list of examples of political interference in science has grown, so has concern among many different groups in America, from ordinary citizens to member of Congress to the nation's leading newspapers. Particular concern has been voiced by the scientific community, since scientists know first-hand that a healthy respect for independent science has been the foundation of American prosperity and has made great contributions to our quality of life.

In 2004, 62 prominent scientists signed a scientists' statement on scientific integrity, denouncing political interference in science, and calling for reform. Last month, the Union of Concerned Scientists released petitions signed by over 10,000 scientists, including ye olde editor and many of his colleagues, a number of whom work at federal National Labs. They are incensed at the abuse of science for partisan political purposes, and they want it stopped.

To see for yourself, look at the details provided on the website:

www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/interference/a-to-z-guide-to-political.html

Be Part Of The Solution To Pollution

When you're washing your car in the driveway, you're not just washing your car in the driveway. The soap and oily grit picked up by your car will be washed into nearby storm drains and then into our streams, ponds and reservoirs without any treatment. This unhealthy non-point source pollution affects all of us.

Here's what you can do. Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water naturally. Use soap sparingly and use non-phosphate detergents. Use a high-pressure, low-volume hose with a trigger nozzle to save water. Empty your bucket of used, soapy water down the sink so it can be biodegraded. Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash where the used water is captured, recycled or filtered to remove pollutants.

When your pets leave a deposit on the ground, they're not just leaving a deposit on the ground. If pet waste is not properly disposed of, it may be washed into storm drains by

rain or melting snow, where it will empty into those streams, ponds and reservoirs we want to protect. Pet waste is a big source of bacteria.

Scoop it up with your pooper scooper, and flush the waste down your sanitary system, or seal it in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the garbage.

When you're fertilizing the lawn, you're doing more than just fertilizing the lawn. If you apply it generously, especially before a heavy rainstorm, it will end up being largely washed into our waterways, where it will prompt the algae growth and decay process that depletes the oxygen supply in the water that is essential for fish and other aquatic creatures.

Use fertilizers sparingly, especially for native species, and check the weather for rain. Use slow-release formulations, and take advantage of compost that you can either make or buy. Mulch your clippings as well, and don't forget to maintain a buffer strip of natural untreated vegetation along the edges of streams, ponds and wetlands.

When your car is leaking oil, it's doing a lot worse than just leaking oil. It will end up being washed into waterways we all depend on. An oil change from just one car contaminates up to *two million* gallons of water and render it undrinkable. Imagine if a lot of people were letting this happen.

That's a good reason why you should fix oil leaks and never dump used automotive fluids into storm drains or on the ground. Use kitty litter or sand to soak up spills, and recycle your used oil. Be part of the solution to pollution, rather than part of the problem. It doesn't take much effort.

Little-Known Rain Forest Facts

- Rain forests, which occupy just two percent of the earth's surface, are home to more than 50% of the planet's plant and animal species.
- Of the eight million square miles of original rain forest, less than three and a half million square miles still remain.
- Every minute, an area of tropical forest the size of 18 city blocks is burned or bulldozed.
- Rain forest plants are important sources of many of our beneficial drugs and their precursors.
- Many birds that migrate to the U.S. require a winter habitat in Latin American rain forests.
- Locally owned shade-grown coffee farms are important habitats for both migratory and resident birds, as well as other wildlife.
- Buying shade-grown coffee products rather than those grown on large sun-coffee plantations will provide the economic means for small-scale farmers to sustain the rain forest while making a living.
- Slash-and-burn agriculture and cattle farming destroy the rain forest, promote the use of pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilizers, and deplete the fragile soil of essential nutrients.
- Trees in the rain forests are much more efficient than trees in the temperate regions in overcoming the effects of man-made carbon dioxide on our climate.
- In one year, a single tree can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven 26,000 miles.
- Two mature trees can provide enough oxygen for a family of four.



What's Happening When

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

Feb 3, Sat, Woody Guthrie Benefit Dinner at the River Terrace Restaurant, 2 Beekman St, Beacon. Cash bar cocktail hour 6-7pm. Proceeds are for the Woody's new deck. Live music, door prizes. Donation: \$50 per person. Reservations required. Info: Phyllis Newham (845) 831-6962

Feb 4, Sun, 5pm, **Uptown Coffeeshouse presents Tim Grimm & Peppy Castro**, a double bill of blues, ballads & contemporary songs. Sponsored by Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture at 4450 Fieldston Rd, Bronx. Tickets \$15. Parking in Fieldston School lots across street. Info: 718-885-2955.

Feb 10, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents An Evening With Pete** at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets \$20, \$25 at door, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

Feb 11, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers will be serving bread and soup at the Eagle Weekend** event at Croton Point. Help us prepare & serve lunch to our visitors in the Nature Center. Call Cynthia to help us pull off another success!

CO₂ Increase Threatens Oceans

Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is dramatically altering ocean chemistry and threatening marine life, according to a report released by government and independent scientists. It warns that marine organisms secreting skeletal structures, such as corals and marine snails, may be deeply affected by rising acidification of surface ocean waters.

From 1800 to 1994, the report says, oceans absorbed 118 billion metric tons of CO₂, measured as carbon. Now they absorb 2 billion metric tons per year, 30% of the CO₂ emitted to the atmosphere from combustion of fossil fuel.

This added CO₂ has already increased the hydrogen ion concentration of the surface ocean by 30% and is predicted to increase it 150% relative to the preindustrial level by 2100. As the acidity rises, the availability of carbonate in the ocean decreases. By 2100, the calcification rates for creatures that build skeletons from calcium carbonate will decrease by up to 60%, the report says.

"It is clear that seawater chemistry will change in coming decades and centuries in ways that will dramatically alter marine life," says Joan Kleypas, report lead author and a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Many lab studies show that coral calcification decreases as the oceans become more acidic, threatening reef structures. "This threat is hitting coral reefs at the same time that they are being hit by warming-induced mass bleaching events," says Chris Langdon of the University of Miami.

Lab studies confirm that marine plankton, such as marine snails, are affected by declining concentrations of carbonate ion. Shelled marine snails are an important food source for salmon, mackerel, and cod. "Decreased calcification in marine algae and animals is likely to impact marine food webs and has the potential to substantially alter the productivity of the ocean," says Victoria J. Fabry of California State University, San Marcos.

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:
 Individual \$40 Mariner \$500
 Family \$55 Sailing-Master \$1000
 Contributor \$100 Benefactor \$5000
 Sponsor \$200 Student \$10

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.
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	Jan Ravase	739-0640
Photographer/Archivist	Beverly Dyckman	739-5057
Potluck	Robin Fox	271-6088
Publicity		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

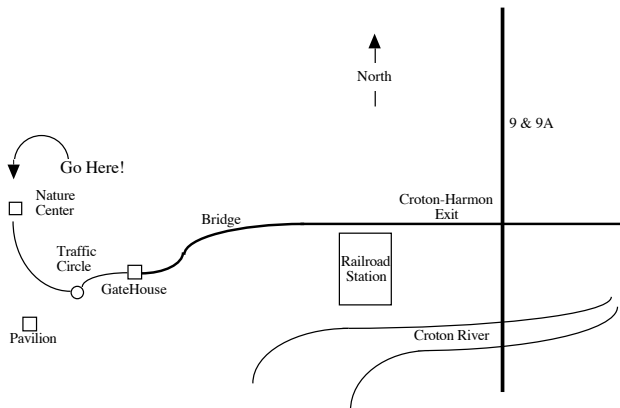
Newsletter Submissions

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

February Newsletter Contributors: Gunnar Andersen, Bill Flank, Anne Osborn, Leesa Thompson

Help Riverlovers Serve Bread and Soup at Eagle Weekend



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Sunday, February 11, 2007
1:00pm
Croton Point Nature Center