



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 21, Number 2, February 2008

Notes from the January Potluck/Meeting

Riverlovers came out of hibernation for a Potluck dinner and meeting on January 18. It was nice to see the return of some old friends.

The meeting started with a financial report and a review of previous meetings. Future projects came next with the EagleFest at the head of the list. We are working with Teatown to tailor our "Bread, Soup, and Eagles" program on Saturday, February 9th to fit the new circumstances. This year the Eagle Watch will be centered in Croton Point Park with a large heated tent and many activities. Since it would not be practical to give soup to the hundreds of people attending, we will instead provide some comfort and nourishment for the many volunteers working at the festival.

Again we will be at the Nature Center from noon until 2pm, but this time we will be serving people working at the festival. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE SOUP AND BREAD. VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO HELP SERVE.** Please call Gunnar and Cynthia at 914-432-3112 if you can help out on February 9th.

As we set out some more chairs for the late comers, the meeting continued to explore the list of ideas generated at the last two meetings. People liked the idea of having a river study group in which individuals will research an aspect of the river and present it to the membership at a meeting. Cynthia will kick this off in March with a presentation "Exactly What is an Estuary?" In April Bill will talk about recycling, including what those numbers mean in the triangles on all the plastic bottles, and what happens to the recycled plastics. Robin also offered to do a presentation.

As we set up another table and yet more chairs (talk about coming out of hibernation), more suggestions came pouring in: that we get in touch with other sloop clubs and the Nature Center to see if there are activities we can participate in, that we arrange tours of the county incinerator plant at Charles Point and the Millwood water treatment plant, and that we help with winter boat maintenance of the Clearwater. All these require planning and a fair amount of participation by members, so stay tuned for more details.

Finally, we got to the ShadFest, which will be on May 18 this year. It is not too early to start soliciting vendors, so we will soon place an ad in the Pennysaver. Robin explained the problems with getting shad, including the moratorium on large nets at the mouth of the river. We will try

our best to get shad even if only in a smaller amount. If it is not possible we will carefully choose another fish. So, reserve that date: MAY 18 for the Riverlovers Nineteenth Annual SHADFEST!!

As The Eagles Fly

by Cynthia Andersen

Last year's Eagle Watch on Sunday, February 11th was a gorgeous winter day. People, young and old, alone, in couples, or hauling their children, came out in droves to look up in the sky to watch the eagles making their way to our River.

Our little Nature Center was buzzing from morning until sunset. Scott laid out a breakfast table of bagels "and" and gave a morning talk on the exhibits at the Nature Center. In the meantime Riverlovers were setting up for the Soup and Bread luncheon. Terry was there early helping to make the kitchen sparkle and she made the Alaskan salmon appetizers. All three Andersen sisters brought their signature soups: Kari's cheese cheddar, Lisa's vegetarian chili and Kirsten's pea soup. Warren brought Bruni's fabulous chicken vegetable soup and Jan made a vegetable soup that was delicious. Zeytinia's and Mrs. Green's made generous donations of soups to Riverlovers and I expect them to do the same this year. Sandy Flank has promised her beautiful scrumptious breads again, and I am sure Daria will too.

Last year I watched the lovely families coming into the Nature Center before and after looking for eagles, and I couldn't help thinking about all the chaos going on in the world. What if everyone put down their guns, bombs, hatreds and looked up into the sky to watch one of God's creations flying through the heavenly universe—gloriously free of prejudices, dogmas, ideologies. Would anything change?

The reality is that for people all over the world the eagle is used as a national, organizational and/or religious symbol. The eagle has been used by many nations as a national symbol, depicting power, beauty and independence, i.e., the United States and Russia. The Jewish religion refers to eagles in the Torah and uses it as a metaphor for God, eagle lecterns are very common in Christian churches and cathedrals, and the eagle is used as a symbol to depict John the Apostle. Many Arabic states and organizations use eagles as symbols, e.g., the PLO.

So the eagle does have universal appeal and maybe if we all turn our eyes up to the sky and think about how we

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Future Potluck Meetings

Note the change in the schedule. The February Potluck and Meeting will fall on the 3rd Friday—February 15th. Thereafter we will switch back to the second Friday of the month.

February 15th: ShadFest and beyond. In addition to ShadFest planning, we will run down the list of ideas gathered at the last few meetings and decide if it is time to add a new project to our activities. This is an important meeting for Riverlovers. Be there to have your opinion heard.

March 14th: "What Is an Estuary?" Presented by Cynthia Andersen as the first of a series of Hudson River research presentations.

April 11th: "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Plastics Recycling" Presented by Bill Flank.

A Clearwater Minute

(Editor's Note: Marilyn Elie composed a nice 60-second pitch for Clearwater for use at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouses and elsewhere, and it needs to be shared. I know you'll like it.)

Over 150 years ago beautiful ships with tall masts and billowing white sails powered only by the wind, sailed up and down the Hudson River. They carried the produce of the fertile farmlands to the cities that were just beginning to emerge. Black and white worked on the crews together and during the Civil War, some of those sloops carried slaves to freedom in Canada.

Well, times change. Wind power gave way to steam engines. Like most boats when their working life is over, the wind powered sloops, one by one, ended up scuttled on the bottom of the River they had so proudly sailed. Their era was over but their memory remained.

Times changed for the River as well. It became the dumping place for industry and sewage for the now-bustling towns. The job of the River was to carry away the wastes of our new way of life. In those days, people did not understand that there was no "away"—that everything is connected.

One man in particular held to the memory of the sloops and a time when the River ran clear and clean. Pete Seeger figured that if he could just bring back one sloop, as a symbol of all that had gone before, maybe, just maybe, people would get to know the River again, fall in love with it as he had, and want to clean it up. He knew that you can't love what you don't know. So, he and a bunch of friends started having picnics down by the riverside. They would sing and pass the hat and collect money to help make Pete's dream of a sloop sailing the Hudson River come true.

Well, those early musicians and environmentalists succeeded. The picnics on the river became the Great Hudson River Revival that we still celebrate every June. After four years of hard work the good sloop Clearwater took her maiden voyage in 1969. Since that time, thousands of people have stood on her decks and felt what it was like so many years ago. People *did* fall in love with the river once again and knew it wasn't too late to turn things around.

Gradually they got together and started talking and educating themselves and their friends and electing people who could do something about it. The only thing easy about

that first grassroots organizing effort was the singing. Pete always had a song to make their spirits rise. But, that's a story for another time....

Be A Meat Reducer

Recently a reporter talked to ex-Beatle Paul McCartney about vegetarianism and the environment, an important link he feels is overlooked in the global warming discussion. He shared some statistics from a 2006 UN report entitled "Livestock's Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options."

The report found that 18 percent of global warming emissions come from raising cows, chickens, pigs, turkeys and other animals we eat. That's 40 percent more than all the world's cars, SUVs, airplanes, and other modes of fossil-based transportation, which combined account for 13 percent. For further comparison, every house, residential and office building in the world accounts for just 8 percent.

There's a trend in Europe called "Meat Reducers" where, along with recycling and not taking plastic bags, people are eating meat at least one day less a week. Become a "Meat Reducer." It's a simple thing everyone can do to lower their carbon footprint. Rather than one answer, there are many answers, and we need to adopt as many as we can.

Sustainable Agriculture Talk Scheduled

by Daria Gregg

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sunday service, February 17, 2008 at 9am and 11am, a program on Sustainable Agriculture will be presented by the Sierra Club's Frank Morris. The Unitarian Fellowship is on Rt. 9A just off and west of the Montrose Exit of Rt. 9.

Have you ever wondered what is meant by sustainable agriculture? Here is your chance to find out. Frank Morris, Chairman of Long Island Sierra Club, is also a member of the Executive Committee of New York State Sierra Club, and a member of the Sierra Club's Farm and Food committee. He will clarify for us the importance of CAFOs, (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) CSA's, (Community Supported Agriculture), and will provide a picture of sustainable agriculture in the Hudson Valley. Frank will also introduce us to CSA's that supply our area.

Born in Brooklyn, Frank Morris graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 1989 with a degree in Rhetoric. He has been a Sierra Club member since 1997, and is active on the Clean Energy Committee, Farm and Food Committee, and Executive Committee of NYS Sierra Club. He is also Vice President of NY Interfaith Power and Light (www.nyipl.org). He lives on Long Island and is founder of Ecologic Advisors (www.ecologicinvestor.com/ea), a NYS Registered Investment Advisory specializing in environmental investing.

Walkabout Coffeehouse Notes

A twin bill on February 9th features Joe Crookston and Pat Victor. Joe plays a number of instruments and features the Finger Lakes region in his songwriting, while Pat draws on the rural country, gospel and blues traditions of the nation.

Join in the informal Teachabouts at 6:45pm, prior to the 7:30pm concerts, at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue in White Plains. There's plenty of free parking, and lots of fun. You and your friends can enjoy yourselves and support Clearwater at the same time.



What's Happening When

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

Feb 8, Fri, 7:30pm, **Woody Guthrie Sailors' Winter Seminar Series: Hudson River Issues—Threats and Opportunities**, with Manna Jo Greene, Clearwater's Director of Environmental Action. Open to the public. At Beacon Sloop Club, Beacon Waterfront.

Feb 9, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse twin bill featuring Joe Crookston and Pat Victor**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, children 5-12 \$10, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

Feb 10, Sun, 3pm, **join Hudson River Foundation's Chris Letts on a winter bird hike**, at Georges Island Park, Route 9A, Montrose. Join Chris & Tom Lake to spot winter birds: Bald Eagles, Great Cormorants, Black Vultures, Canvasbacks, Coots, and more. Dress warmly. Info: 212-924-8290.

Feb 15, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the third Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. ShadFest and new project planning. Check our website for the latest info, at www.riverlovers.org.

Feb 22, Fri, 7:30pm, **Woody Guthrie Sailors' Winter Seminar Series: Estuary Overview—Water Quality Monitoring**, with Eli Schloss, Clearwater's Esopus Meadows Tideline Education Director. Open to the public. At Beacon Sloop Club, Beacon Waterfront.

NYC Passes Plastic Bag Recycling Bill

New York City took a giant step forward in the fight against plastic. The City Council passed a bill requiring large stores and chains to collect and recycle plastic shopping bags.

According to a New York Times report: "New York is by far the largest American city to enact so broad a measure to limit the environmental impact of the bags. Altogether, each year the country is estimated to use 86 billion bags, which end up blowing down city streets, or tangled in the stomachs of whales, sea turtles and birds, or buried in landfills where they enjoy free rent for 1,000 years."

Other cities like Melbourne and San Francisco have banned bags outright. San Francisco was the first city in North America to ban non-recyclable and non-biodegradable bags made from petroleum products.

Africa has moved toward a continent-wide plastic bag ban, and China's cabinet issued a directive banning production, prohibiting stores from handing out free plastic bags after June 1st and imposing fees on their usage. Chinese use up to 3 billion plastic bags daily! Keep the momentum going here in the United States and just say "no" to plastic bags!

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are all part of the Kingdom *Animalia*, we can learn to live together and soar like the eagle to the heights we all want to reach.

Last year was my first eagle watch and I am so happy I will get to do it again this year on Saturday, February 9. The rain date is Sunday, February 10. It was so inspirational, and I want to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the day with us. See you again on this February 9.

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 2008 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 |
| 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 | | |
| Photographer/Archivist | Beverly Dyckman | 739-5057 |
| Potluck | Robin Fox | 271-6088 |
| Publicity | | |
| ShadFest | Robin Fox | 271-6088 |

Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

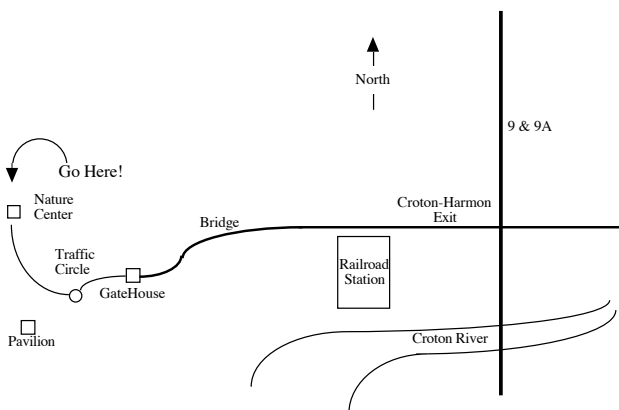
Newsletter Submissions

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: Cynthia Andersen, Gunnar Andersen, Marilyn Elie, Daria Gregg

Pre-ShadFest Potluck



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Friday, February 15, 2008
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center