



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 22, Number 2, February 2009

Riverlovers Doings

by Gunnar Andersen

Hey Riverlovers, we have many noteworthy activities in the next few months, so please update your calendars so you do not miss any:

Saturday, February 7: the EagleFest in Croton Point Park. We will once again serve bread and soup to the volunteers (and any other people who stray up to the Nature Center). We welcome several volunteers from Ferry Sloops who will join us in this activity. We also thank the Riverlovers volunteers who are making soup and bread as well as Zeytinia and Mrs. Greene's for their donations. We'll be serving from about 11:30am to 2:00pm, and we'll be setting up beforehand and cleaning up afterwards. Pitch in, so that "many hands make light work!"

Thursday, February 26: we will show the film "Swim for the River" at the Croton Free Library. The film documents the adventures of Christopher Swain as he swims the entire length of the Hudson – from Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Statue of Liberty. At several stops along the way he discusses the threats to the river with local environmental heroes who show that ordinary people can and do make a difference.

Friday, March 20: Riverlovers Potluck dinner/meeting includes an update on the status of Indian Point and the application for relicensing. With our ShadFest coming up on May 17, we will, of course, devote part of every meeting to ShadFest planning. Remember that the Potluck dinner always starts at 6:30, followed by the meeting at 7pm.

Friday, April 17: Riverlovers Potluck dinner/meeting. Clearwater's Executive Director, Jeff Rumpf will give us an update on Clearwater's activities, especially those centered around the Quadricentennial celebrations involving Henry Hudson, Pete Seeger's 90th birthday, and the new Beacon home for Clearwater.

Saturday, May 17: Riverlovers NINETEENTH ANNUAL SHADFEST!! Details concerning availability of shad, performers and schedules will be posted on our website as the plans evolve. Volunteers are always welcome and will be invited to our annual sail on the Clearwater. Last year it was a lovely sunset sail from Verplanck.

Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21: Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival. Riverlovers will participate in this great annual festival.

July date to be determined: we will repeat our popular river seining adventure with Scott Williamson from the Nature Center. This is a big hit with both adults and children. Check the website for details.

Why Close Indian Point?

The nuclear reactors sit on the banks of the Hudson, about 24 miles from New York City. Some 20 million people live within 50 miles of the facility, and a serious incident could render the entire metropolitan area uninhabitable.

Entergy, the multi-billion dollar company which owns the reactors, wants to keep them going for one reason—profit. Each reactor makes about a million dollars a day for them, and that profit comes at our expense.

The reactors use the river and the air as their dumping grounds for the gases and the liquids that can't be contained on-site. Radioactive gases enter our air from the discharge tower, and radioactive water goes out through the discharge canal. Every day, about two billion gallons of water are sucked in, disrupting aquatic life in the river, and the courts have already ruled that this system has to be changed, although Entergy is fighting that decision.

The reactors generate high-level nuclear waste, much of which will remain deadly for at least the next million years. The spent fuel pools are so over-crowded that spent fuel rods are now being stored in casks outdoors on an open concrete platform. This presents a tempting target for terrorists, and even if the plant were to close, measures would still have to be taken to safeguard the toxic legacy left behind.

Indian Point was licensed to operate for 40 years, but now Entergy wants an additional 20 years even though, just like an old car, the plant continues to have repeated problems. Frustratingly, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved every renewal application that has ever come before it. But the times are different today.

New York State, numerous elected officials, organizations like Clearwater and Riverkeeper, and people who understand the serious issues involved, are united in wanting to close the plant, and they are all working through the required NRC process, industry-biased as it is.

The legal battle has been joined, and a number of contentions raised by the coalition of opposing groups have been given standing by the NRC. Entergy has a highly paid legal staff and is spending millions of dollars in advertising,

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Green Chemistry Principles

It took a while, but the chemical industry is finally paying serious attention to becoming greener. Green chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances. A set of basic principles was first published in a 1998 book, *Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice*, by Paul Anastas and John Warner, to make the concepts of green chemistry more widely known to the scientific community, but progress has been gradual.

Recently, a chapter on the development of green chemistry and its future path was written by John Warner for a landmark book on industrial and engineering chemistry (co-edited by ye olde *Currents* editor). His presentation at the American Chemical Society National Meeting was heavily attended, and Chemical and Engineering News, the professional society's official newsmagazine, published a feature article on the subject and listed 12 principles for the industry.

These include prevention, minimizing waste, using less hazardous materials, producing safer chemical products, using safer solvents, reducing the number of process steps, using renewable raw materials, becoming more energy-efficient, reducing persistence in the environment, active pollution prevention programs, and designing chemical processes to minimize the potential for accidents, releases, explosions and fires.

The message has finally become clear to the industry, and they are increasingly responding to the public's demands for companies to become more green in their operations. Much of the leadership has come from Europe, where pollution problems have been severe for many years, but this has now spread to our country. Companies both large and small are now marketing more environmentally friendly cleaning materials like laundry and dishwashing formulations, stain removers, and other household products.

Let's hope that other sectors of our economy get on the bandwagon before it's too late for their economic survival, our physical survival, and the survival of the planet.

Mike Davis (1939-2008) An Appreciation

It was in March, 1994 that Mike Davis, along with several other rowing enthusiasts, founded the non-profit group Floating the Apple. With grants from organizations like the Open Space Institute, the rowers began building 25-foot-long wooden replicas of the Whitehall gig, a four-oared boat that could accommodate ten passengers.

They worked with donated tools in the lobby of the old McGraw-Hill building on West 42nd Street in space made available by the 42nd Street Development Corporation, then loaded their boats—each weighing 300 pounds—on hand-pulled carts and rolled them down to the river. Sometimes students from Manhattan schools helped build the boats, and sometimes neophyte seafaring families from the neighborhood did the work.

Whitehall gigs are named for the Manhattan street where they were first built more than 250 years ago. George Washington used them to evacuate troops from Brooklyn during the Battle of Long Island, a surreptitious middle-of-

the-night operation on August 29, 1776, that saved the Continental Army from destruction. Through the 1800's they served as small ferries plying the harbor.

Thirty of the gigs have been built by Floating the Apple. As of 2008, Floating the Apple was located at Pier 84 in Hudson River Park. Other spinoff groups are located at Pier 40 (Village Community Boathouse), on East 96th Street, in the South Bronx (Rocking the Boat), in Weehawken, New Jersey and at five other locations north of New York City.

Mike Davis's dream went far beyond the boats. He wanted to reclaim the Hudson, the Harlem and the East Rivers for, in his words, "universal public access." He had a kind of Johnny Appleseed vision in which Floating the Apple would spawn a series of spinoff boathouses and, in fact, that is pretty much what happened.

Mike had a Master's degree in anthropology, and worked for many years at a dig in Turkey. "We have great water," he said, "but no one uses it very much. In Istanbul, there are small boats everywhere. Anyone can rent a boat and row on the Bosphorus. That's the way it should be on the Hudson."

"Swim For The River"

On Thursday, February 26 at 7pm at the Croton Free Library, Riverlovers will present the film "Swim for the River". The film will be followed by a discussion. (Riverlovers members: Please post flyers. You can print them from the web site or call me at 432-3112.)

The film documents Christopher Swain's swim of the entire Hudson River, starting at Lake Tear of the Clouds. To quote his web site:

"In the film, Swain's experience links together stories of the river, which begins in wilderness and ends in one of the nation's densest population centers. We meet heroes who are fighting to protect the Hudson against a range of threats from industry, inept regulatory agencies, and public indifference.

"We meet famous people, like folk singer Pete Seeger, but we also see how ordinary citizens can and do make a difference through choices they make affecting the environment, and by joining together around a common cause. *Swim For The River* is a hopeful film that avoids preaching to the choir. Swain's lighthearted commentary and incredible physical achievement appeal to a wide audience."

Dinner To Benefit *Woody Guthrie*

The sloop *Woody Guthrie* has long been the flagship of the Beacon Sloop Club. The 3rd Annual Woody Guthrie Benefit Dinner and 31st Anniversary will be celebrated at the River Terrace Restaurant, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon (Beekman and Route 9D), on Saturday, February 28th. The cash bar cocktail hour is from six to seven, and there will be live music and door prizes.

Donations are \$50 per person, and the proceeds are for the *Woody's* centerboard trunk project. Reservations are necessary, and the deadline is February 18th. Space is limited. For more information, call Tom LaBarr at 845-831-4267.





What's Happening When

Daily at 11:11am, Sat at 9am & 2pm on WAMC and upstate affiliates, **The Clearwater Moment**. Snippets of news, history & song. Turn on, tune in. It's also on the Internet.

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

Feb 4, Wed, 6:30pm, **Ferry Sloop Meeting & Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Our sister organization and sailing group shares a home, a mission and some activities with us. Info: www.ferrysloop.org.

Feb 7, Sat, 9am-4pm, **EagleFest at Croton Point Park**. (Snow date Feb 8) Plan to help Riverlovers serve soup and bread to the program volunteers for the event. See details on page 1 and check our website for the latest info, at www.riverlovers.org.

Feb 8, Sun, 10am-3pm, **Indoor Farmers Market at Westchester County Center**. Fresh produce, baked goods, flowers, plants, maple syrup, honey, jams, wine & dairy products. Admission free, parking \$4. Info: 995-4050 or www.countycenter.biz.

Feb 8, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Archaeology Open House**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Info: 862-5297.

Feb 14, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Vance Gilbert**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance (available via www.BrownPaperTickes.com or walkaboutclearwater.org or 1-800-838-3006), or \$20 at door. \$15 at door with student ID, \$10 children 6-12, 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 26, Thurs, 7pm, Riverlovers showing of documentary film **"Swim For The River"** at Croton Library. Check our website for further details.

Feb 28, Sat, 1pm, **American Indian Sugaring**, at Trailside Nature Museum, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River. Fireside stories precede tree tapping. Info: 864-7322

Feb 28, Sat, 6pm, **3rd Annual Woody Guthrie Benefit Dinner & 31st Anniversary**, at River Terrace Restaurant, 2 Beacon St, Beacon. Info: Tom LaBarr, 845-831-4267. See story for more details.

Mar 4, Wed, 6:30pm, **Ferry Sloop Meeting & Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Our sister organization and sailing group shares a home, a mission and some activities with us. Info: www.ferrysloop.org.

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

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making inaccurate and misleading claims so often that they hope people will believe they are true.

This battle can be won, but it will take determination, expertise and money to sway the NRC to do the sensible thing and turn down the re-licensing. The health and safety of millions of people, and the protection of the Lower Hudson Valley's environment is at stake.

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 2009 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

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
Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
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

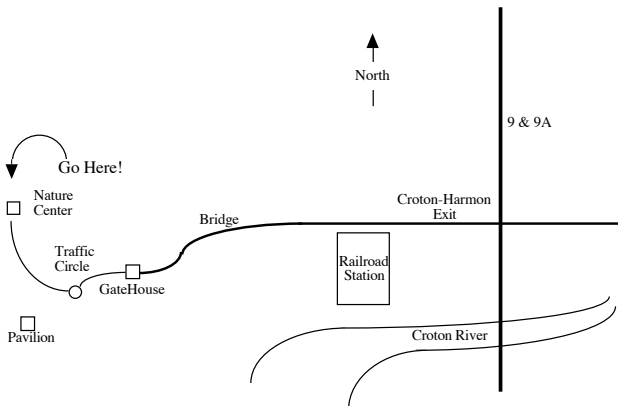
Riverlovers "Bread and Soup" for EagleFest Volunteers



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Saturday, February 7, 2009
Serving from 11:30 to 2:00
Croton Point Nature Center