



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 28, Number 2, February 2015

Message From The President

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children.” — Author unknown. We must take care of the land, the rivers, and the climate for our children.

For the January meeting we screened the movie “The Revenge of the Electric Car.” One of the points the movie made was that the electric car will become greener in the future as the grid will depend less on fossil fuel and more on renewables like wind, solar, hydro and nuclear. A point that I like to make is that a home generator consumes 2 quarts of gasoline to produce a kilowatt-hour. An oil-burning power plant only needs 10 ounces per kilowatt-hour. Automotive engines might be more efficient than a home generator, but electric cars are considerably more efficient using the grid.

We are excited about Teatown’s annual Hudson River EagleFest. This year it will be held on Saturday, February 7th (inclement weather date Sunday, February 8th). Riverlovers will once more be serving home-made and donated soups and baked breads at the Croton Point Nature Center for volunteers and vendors from 11 am to 1:30 pm.

We need volunteers to bring soups, breads and butter, and to help serve. We also need volunteers for the Outreach Table from 9am to 4pm. Riverlovers will get plenty of exposure since large crowds are expected at the big tent. Call Gunnar at 914-432-3112 if you can help with soups and bread at the Nature Center or call Warren at 914-739-9028 if you can help out at the Outreach Table. If you are, or even if you are not, volunteering at the EagleFest, please come and see the various activities.

For the February 20th Potluck we will be screening another car documentary, a PBS Nova special “Car of the Future—Engineering for the Environment.” Some of our members who have hybrid cars will share their experiences with them, so you can get some inside facts.

For the March 20th Potluck we will screen Robert Stone’s “Earthdays” in anticipation of the Earth Day celebrations in April.

We have some interesting activities this Spring. Among them is a tour of Wildflower Island at the Teatown Lake Reservation with our own Daria Gregg, an Earth Day cleanup with Riverkeeper, and a canoe trip sponsored by the Friends of the Great Swamp.

Summer activities will include a canoe trip at the Constitution Marsh, a canoe trip at the Iona Island Educational

Center (free, with canoes supplied), and our annual sail on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Watch for details.

Come to our meetings, come to our activities. Members and non-members are welcome. Together we can educate ourselves, and others, protect the Hudson River, and help save the Earth for ourselves and future generations!

How Clean Is Nuclear Energy?

A recent letter to The New York Times addressed this contentious question, and deserves quoting here:

“The nuclear industry is bamboozling the Environmental Protection Agency into its agenda of promoting nuclear power as ‘clean.’ It is no secret that every nuclear power plant regularly emits low-level radiation into the environment. Why focus only on carbon emissions while ignoring iodine-129, plutonium-239, cesium-135 and other lethal radionuclides? [Editor’s note: Other highly dangerous isotopes regularly leaked or emitted include tritium, strontium-90, iodine-131, cesium-137, barium-140, krypton-85, etc.]

“The nuclear industry wants us to focus narrowly on the fission process and to ignore the footprint of mining, milling, enrichment, processing and storing of nuclear fuel.

“It also wants us to ignore the elephant in the room: its inability to rid the planet of high-level nuclear waste that accumulates every hour that any nuclear power plant is operating. The latest plan of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in effect to turn every nuclear power plant in the country into a nuclear waste dump, is shocking indeed.

“The bottom line is very simple: Nuclear power is the most expensive, the most unreliable, the most dangerous and most environmentally damaging of all forms of energy production.”

That statement about the bottom line needs to be contrasted with statements about the advantages and need for nuclear power while we go through the process of abandoning our current highly hazardous fossil fuel energy sources in favor of renewables and reducing the wasteful habits of energy use we have grown into in our affluent culture.

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

It cost \$9.30 a year to send you the Riverlovers Currents. Please consider adding at least that much to your annual dues. Support your Newsletter and the river, and get your friends to join you.

Riverlovers Needed To Help At EagleFest

by Gunnar Andersen

Teatown's annual Hudson River EagleFest will be held on Saturday, February 7th, 2015 (snow date Sunday, February 8th) at Croton Point Park.

Riverlovers will once again be serving soup and bread at the Croton Point Nature Center for EagleFest volunteers from 11am to 1:30pm. We need Riverlovers volunteers to bring soup and bread and to help serve. We also need volunteers for the Riverlovers table at the EagleFest main tent from 9am to 4pm.

If you can donate some soup or bread or can help out at the Nature Center, please call Gunnar now at 914-432-3112. If you can help staff the outreach table, please call Warren at 914-739-9028. We need all available Riverlovers to help at our big event of the year. Call now, and mark your calendar!

Walkabout Chorus At EagleFest

The Walkabout Clearwater Chorus will sing for the river at Teatown's EagleFest Saturday, February 7, 2015. The Chorus will be at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow at noon. The Davis Center was once the bathhouse for Sleepy Hollow's public swimming beach. It's now run by Scenic Hudson as an educational center with programs for school children. EagleFest activities at the Davis Center begin at 10am on February 7th. Come hear, and sing with, the Chorus. For the schedule, check out the EagleFest website:

<http://www.teatown.org/teatown-events/eaglefest.html>

Natural Gas Won't Do It

If you think natural gas is going to be the savior for our climate, guess again! Three recent studies clearly show that what we really need is low-carbon energy. While it is true that it also has its trade-offs, like emissions from mining and manufacturing materials, on balance low-carbon energy is better than fossil fuels.

A study from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory found that a switch from coal to natural gas would cut carbon emissions, but abundant and cheap gas would displace not just coal, but also emerging low-carbon energy technologies like solar and wind that have not yet had a chance to fully achieve economies of scale, and would put off their widespread adoption, perhaps by several decades. In that case, using more natural gas would not reduce global warming to any significant degree.

In the meantime, as shown by a University of California study using satellite-based observations, actual methane emissions in the southwest U.S. are about two to four times more than previously estimated for extraction and processing. These results underscore the need to more accurately measure emissions, so we can assess current and future hazards from processes like fracking in areas other than New York, where health and environmental concerns have now led to its banning.

Finally, global long-term life-cycle assessments of low-carbon systems by scientists at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology show that implementing these systems on a large scale could double the world's electricity

supply by 2050. At the same time, pollutant emissions would be decreased or at least stabilized. These studies ought to put a triple whammy on the fracking frenzy now sweeping the globe, if only we would come to our senses.

Feedback

I know Warren wants us all to see an uninterrupted showing of Pandora's Promise. When the film, even in its earlier attempted showing, downplayed the deaths at Chernobyl, I knew that the film was not portraying the whole picture. This review from The Nation magazine (see url below) pretty much states my gut response to the film.

It does not cover the issue of the radioactive tailings from uranium mining that are dumped on indigenous people's land and that is polluting their water and causes an increase of cancers in their populations. (*Editor's note: My visit to the Navaho Reservation showed how terribly bad these effects have been.*)

No energy source is totally harm-free, even renewables, but nuclear is not an option for me. Read the article cited below; it is fair and balanced in my mind.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/174733/pandoras-terri-fying-promise-can-nuclear-power-save-planet>

Daria

Thank you Daria, for sending this along. I've read the article before in *The Nation*, and this repeated reading has alarmed and worried me just as it did with my first reading.

And as you wrote, "...nuclear is not an option for me." Me too.

Unless Riverlovers arranges a showing for a wider public, in some place like a library or community hall and invites discussion by really knowledgeable experts from both sides to lead the discussion, I don't see a reason for showing the movie to our small group again.

Robin

2014-15 Walkabout Coffeehouse Schedule

by Robin Fox

Thank you all for helping to make the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse's 26th season last year a smashing success. We hope we'll see you back with us this month as another great season of acoustic music continues with The Boxcar Lilies, an exciting trio with great harmonies and a mix of folk, country and bluegrass-influenced Americana music.

Our 2014-15 schedule is included below:

February 14: The Boxcar Lilies

March 14: Joe Jencks/Natalia Zukerman

April 11: Joe Crookston/Mustard's Retreat

May 9: Kim & Reggie Harris

Advance tickets for individual concerts are on sale at www.BrownPaperTickets.com. To keep up to date, check out www.walkaboutclearwater.org, or better yet, use the url to sign up and join the e-mail list. Bring your friends! You'll enjoy the experience, and you'll help support Walkabout and Clearwater as well.



What's Happening When

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

Feb 7, Sat, **Teatown's annual Hudson River EagleFest**. (Inclement weather date Sunday February 8th.) Riverlovers will once more be serving home-made and donated soups and baked breads at the Croton Point Nature Center for volunteers and vendors from 11 am to 1:30 pm. See details elsewhere in the *Currents*.

Feb 12, Thurs, 7pm, **The Mountain Dulcimer, with David Massengill**. At the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse, Beacon train station plaza.

Feb 14, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring The Boxcar Lilies**. Check out the story on page 2, and come see a great show. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 via credit card (\$18), 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: 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Feb 20, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Screening of PBS special, "Car of the Future—Engineering for the Environment." More details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Feb 21, Sat, 2-6pm, **Clearwater's Open Boat Event at the Kingston Homeport & Education Center**, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston (next to the Hudson River Maritime Museum). Food & drink, music & more. Check www.clearwater.org for more details.

March 1, Sun, 5pm, 9th **Annual Woody Benefit Dinner**, Towne Crier Café, Main St, Beacon. Cocktail hour, dinner, raffle & door prizes, live music by Elissa Jones Band. Proceeds for Woody sloop restoration. Donation \$75. Reservations by Feb 24th. For details and reservation form, www.beaconsloopclub.org.

Global Warming Hurts Food Supply

At the elevated greenhouse gas levels of atmospheric CO₂ anticipated by around 2050, crops that provide a large share of the global population with most of their dietary zinc, iron and protein will have significantly reduced concentrations of those nutrients, according to a new study led by the Harvard School of Public Health and published in the journal *Nature*. The reductions seen in this carefully designed study range from 5 to 10%.

Given that an estimated 2 billion people suffer from zinc and iron deficiencies, resulting in a loss of 63 million life

years annually from malnutrition, the reduction in these nutrients represents the most significant health threat ever shown to be associated with climate change.

The bottom line from the article: "This study is the first to resolve the question of whether rising CO₂ concentrations—which have been increasing steadily since the start of the Industrial Revolution—threaten human nutrition." The answer is, unfortunately, a resounding "yes."

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 2015 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

February Newsletter Contributors: Gunnar Andersen, Robin Fox, Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

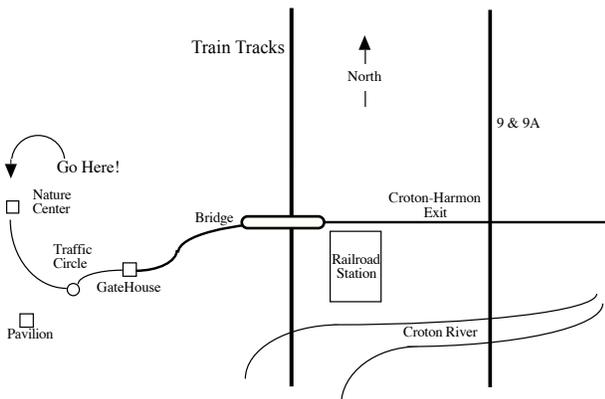
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of PBS's *Car of the Future*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, February 20, 2015
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center