



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 30, Number 2, February 2017

Message from the President

The temperatures this winter are varying from 15 degrees to 50 degrees. Very unsettled. This weather is not climate change, or is it? Remember Bill Flank's article last month distinguishing between global warming and climate change? And did you hear about Bernie Sanders grilling climate denier Scott Pruitt for the position of head of the Environmental Protection Agency. At the end of the Congressional interview, Senator Sanders stated: "You do not have my VOTE!!" Or my confidence, I would add.

The January visit to the Dia: Beacon museum was very interesting, with its huge modern art 3-dimensional pieces. The first piece was two very long red carpets with six-foot boards in binary code. We kept touring the giant rooms in search of (in Jan's words) the grooviest art work.

We had a well-attended January meeting. We voted on which video to watch, and *American Eagle* won out. These magnificent birds have a tough existence, with building nests and hunting for prey in the dead of winter.

Pivoting to Teatown's annual Hudson River EagleFest, this year it is on Saturday, February 11th (inclement weather date of Sunday, February 12th). See Gunnar's article for more details. Besides soup servers, we also need volunteers for the Outreach Table from 9am to 4pm.

Riverlovers will get lots of exposure. Large crowds are expected at the big tent. We are always looking for new members. Call Warren at 914-739-9028 to help at the Outreach table. Volunteering or not, please come and see the various activities.

Our next Potluck will be on Friday, February 17th at 6:30pm in the Croton Point Nature Center. We will screen either *Burning the Future—Coal in America* or *A Sidewalk Astronomer* featuring John Dobson.

We will visit Lincoln Depot Museum on Saturday, February 18th at 10am to see the various special activities, such as a reenactment of Lincoln's 1861 speech. The museum is on South Water Street about one block north of the Peekskill Train Station.

For the March 17th Potluck we will be screening *Giraffes—Africa's Gentle Giants*. And in April we plan to visit the re-opened PepsiCo Sculpture Garden in Purchase.

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.

Riverlovers Feeds EagleFest Volunteers

by Gunnar Andersen

Teatown's annual Hudson River EagleFest will be held on Saturday, February 11th, 2017 (snow date Sunday, February 12th) at Croton Point Park, and Riverlovers are again playing an important part.

We will serve soup and bread to EagleFest volunteers at Croton Point Nature Center from 11am to 1:30pm.

Riverlovers are needed to bring soup, bread and 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 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.



Walkabout Coffeehouse In February

The February 11th concert of the 29th season of Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse is in the upper Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church in White Plains. It features the duo "Magpie" (Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner) presenting "*Rachel Carson—Songs for the Earth*."

Tickets are \$18.00 in advance (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. For tickets, visit www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Doors open at 6:30pm and the concert begins at 7:30. The trademark informal audience songfest with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus begins at 6:45. Come sing!

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.

Indian Point Is Becoming History:

NY Dept. of State Report on Indian Point

Some of the statements in this comprehensive report issued last year bear repeating, since they were relied upon in the negotiation of the recent agreement between the State and Entergy to close both reactors at the Indian Point facility in the next several years. They are supported by similar statements issued by the Independent System Operator, the entity that manages and operates our regional grid system.

The statements acknowledge that the TOTS Company, which includes Con Edison as a partner, has built three transmission upgrades so that new generation capacity is not needed to replace Indian Point.

Here are some cogent quotes taken from the Report:

“...in 2005 Indian Point identified leakage of radionuclide-contaminated water from cracks in two different spent fuel pools and subsequently discovered tritium, strontium, and other radionuclides in groundwater underneath the site. Strontium and tritium from Indian Point’s spent fuel pools have also reached the Hudson River. The retained spent fuel pool water is likely to continue to discharge to groundwater for an indeterminate amount of time.”

“... Indian Point’s role in servicing public energy needs in the southeastern New York area was extensively considered. Undertaking actions outlined in the contingency plans formulated under the auspices of the Public Service Commission, projects are being put in place to relieve reliability concerns by some combination of increasing capacity resources, reducing load, or allowing existing capacity resources to be better utilized through the presences of additional transmission system infrastructure. . . . The New York electric power system can be expected to operate reliably without Indian Point Unit 2 and Unit 3 at the time or soon after their licenses expire.”

“Approximately 1,500 tons of spent fuel waste is currently stored in densely packed spent fuel pools at the Indian Point facility. Two of the spent fuel pools, in addition to an unknown number of other pipes, have already exhibited structural failures that have resulted in leakage of unplanned, unpermitted quantities of radioactive waste that have flowed into the groundwater beneath the Indian Point facility. . . . It has not been determined the exact source of all leaks, the length of time the leaks have been transmitting radioactive material into the groundwater and the waters of the Hudson River, and the quantities of latent radioactive waste distributed throughout the groundwater underneath the Indian Point facility. Full assessment and cleanup of the radioactive leaks cannot commence until the plant has been shut down. . . . The existence of measurable levels of radioactive releases from the Indian Point facility demonstrates that such storage solutions do not prevent or minimize spills into coastal waters.”

Indian Point was not “a disaster waiting to happen.” The disaster was already underway and developing in slow motion, as legal arguments and negotiations dragged on. At last, a viable closure solution is now in sight. Our energy supply will be protected, workers’ jobs will be protected, further threats to our water resources and our environment

will be minimized, and Entergy will undertake abatement steps to reduce potential damage in the future. Governor Cuomo deserves credit for helping to resolve this major issue affecting us all.

Bottled Water’s Steep Price

Do you feel thirsty? Here’s how quenching your thirst can affect the planet. Plastic water bottles are everywhere. This year, for the first time, bottled water is on track to outsell so-called “soft drinks” in the U.S. So where do you stand?

How many plastic bottles of water do you use in a week? Close to 50 billion bottles of water were sold last year in the U.S., and every one of them affects our environment, often in more than one way. More than half of us said, in a 2013 survey, that we drank bottled water occasionally or as our major source of drinking water. This is in spite of the fact that tap water is free or almost free, and meets the high quality standards set by the EPA, while bottled water may not always be pollutant-free. (A few years ago, Consumer Reports found that about 8% of their tested samples failed EPA standards.)

Sadly, in still a few places in the U.S., tap water is not safe to drink and bottled water is a necessity (as in Flint, Michigan, some Appalachian communities affected by coal mine acid drainage, and some western desert areas).

In a 2009 study, it was estimated that producing a bottle of water used about 2,000 times as much energy as producing an equivalent quantity of tap water, once you factor in the energy needed to make the bottles, fill, cool and transport them. Of course, not all bottled water is created equal when it comes to transporting it. Think Fiji or Perrier or Pellegrino, and you can see why.

Most bottles are thrown away after a single use, despite the fact that the polyester plastic used is the easiest of all to recycle. In the U.S., maybe 30% of them are collected for recycling. While most of the bottles end up in landfills, some of them end up in waterways, contributing to a global pollution problem. It is estimated that about nine million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year, and about 100 million tons are already floating out there.

We’re not the only ones who are guilty, however. Almost half of those waste plastics come from China and other Southeast Asian countries, and they don’t degrade readily. But with better recycling and waste management practices, we could help save our oceans and other waterbodies. We could also improve our consumer habits, and maybe even use a little less bottled water. We could make a big difference if we refilled our bottles with some of the best water in the world—the New York City watershed product most of us have coming out of our taps.

Based on a November 1, 2016 New York Times report

Quote Without Comment

Contributions to total U.S. energy consumption in 2015:

Petroleum	37%
Natural gas	29%
Coal	16%
Renewables	10%
Nuclear	9%

Biggest changes since 1950:

Coal dropped from 36% to 16%
Natural gas increased
from 17% to 29%

Department of Energy data



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.

Feb 11, Sat, 9am–4pm, **EagleFest at Croton Point**. Riverlovers serve soup & bread lunch for EagleFest volunteers from 11am to 1:30pm. Our big service event! See details on page 1, sign up, & save the date.

Feb 11, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Magpie (Terry & Greg)**. *Upstairs* in the Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets are \$18.00 in advance (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. www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 for advance tickets via credit card. 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 or call 914-946-1625.

Feb 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. We will screen either *Burning the Future—Coal in America* or *A Sidewalk Astronomer* featuring John Dobson. Info: www.riverlovers.org.

Feb 18, Sat, 10am, **Riverlovers visit Lincoln Depot Museum** in Peekskill to see the various special holiday activities, such as a reenactment of Lincoln's 1861 speech. The museum is on South Water Street about one block north of the Peekskill Train Station. Come join us.

Greenhouse Carbon Dioxide

Today's CO₂ levels are higher than they have ever been in at least 800,000 years, and maybe even for millions of years. Since 1750, the industrial activities that support our modern civilization have raised atmospheric CO₂ levels from about 280 parts per million (ppm) to more than 400 ppm, and they continue to rise. (We hit 405 ppm in June, 2015.)

Every year, fossil fuel burning and other human activities release about 40 billion tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. That's about 5.5 tons for each person on our planet. About 25% of this is absorbed by our oceans, where it contributes to ocean acidification and disruption of the food chain. Perhaps another 25% is absorbed by forests.

As for the rest, radiation trapping by atmospheric CO₂ and other greenhouse gases (especially ones like methane) is the process leading to planet warming and disruption of climate patterns. So in addition to the inexorable warming trend we have been experiencing, we also exacerbate weather extremes as well.

Have we reached the point of no return? Although we don't know precisely where that is, we do know we're getting dangerously close and there are no do-overs in this game. It's like going over the cliff in slow motion.

Small Investments That Pay Off

Buy energy efficient compact fluorescent or LED bulbs for your most used lights. Carbon Dioxide reduction: 500+ pounds a year per bulb.

Install low-flow shower heads to use less hot water. Carbon Dioxide reduction: up to 300 pounds a year.

Wash clothes in warm or cold water, not hot. Carbon Dioxide Reduction: up to 500 pounds/year (2 loads a week).

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 2017 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

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <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, 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

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

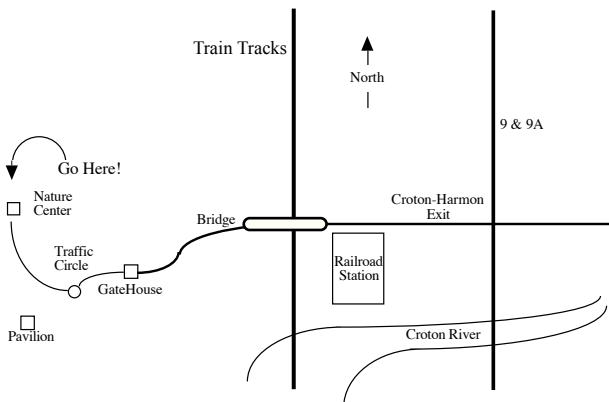
Newsletter Submissions

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

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
February Newsletter Contributors: Gunnar Andersen, Warren Lindholm

Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of *Burning the Future*



Riverlovers, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Friday, February 17, 2017
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center