



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 21, Number 1, January 2008

Annual Bread, Soup And Eagles Event

The annual Lower Hudson Valley Eagle Watch falls on Saturday, February 9, 2008, and once again Riverlovers will be serving bread and soup. Even more people will be attending this highly successful program because this year, Teatown is making Croton Point Park the center of Eagle Watch activities. Preparations include setting up a heated tent in the park near the rotunda, so you can thaw out if necessary.

We need volunteers to prepare soup and breads, and to help serve at the event. This important recruiting and public relations effort needs your support. Cynthia is coordinating the volunteers, so please let her know in what way you can help, and remember to SAVE THAT DATE: Feb. 9, 2008!

Walkabout Coffeehouse Notes

Last month at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse, the Sol y Canto group was delightful. Vocal harmonies accompanied by spectacular Spanish guitar, percussion, wind and bass provided a unique sound to ballads and Latin rhythms.

On January 12th, the trio Red Molly presents an eclectic repertoire ranging from contemporary songs to bluegrass standards, old-time southern gospel, and classic American tunes. They have performed with artists like Aztec Two-Step, Jonathan Edwards and Bill Staines, among others, and appeared several times at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival.

A twin bill on February 9th features Joe Crookston and Pat Wictor. Joe plays many 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 all can enjoy yourselves and support Clearwater at the same time. Come on out!

Global Warming Heats Up

New York State has now joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, a pact of the governors of ten Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. State regulations have been proposed, and the public comment period expired on December 24th. At last we're paying some needed attention!

The RGGI plan will stop increases in the amount of carbon dioxide that power plants are allowed to emit, and

cap emissions at current levels through 2014. Reductions in emissions will then gradually increase to 10% by 2019, for a total overall reduction of 16%.

In addition, New York has joined the International Carbon Action Partnership, a coalition of states, Canadian provinces, European countries, New Zealand and Norway, who are all working together to reduce global warming.

If you want to see what's happening in government and non-profit organizations who are addressing the issue, here are some useful website links.

Westchester County:

www.westchestergov.com/globalwarming.html

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation:

www.dec.ny.gov/energy/rggi.html

Environmental Protection Agency:

www.epe.gov/climatechange/

Sierra Club:

www.sierraclub.org

Environmental Advocates:

www.eany.org

Environmental Defense:

www.environmentaldefense.org/home.cfm

Union of Concerned Scientists:

www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/

New York League of Conservation Voters:

www.nylcv.org/publications/2006/nylcv_priority_issue_fighting_climate_change

Winter Birding

by Robin Fox

Here's a list of events of interest sponsored by the Hudson River Foundation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program. The bird watches are great, chilly fun.

Winter Birds to be spotted include Bald Eagles, Great Cormorants, Black Vultures, Canvasbacks, Coots, and more.

Join Chris Letts and Tom Lake on these hikes and learn a lot of things.

Jan. 1: 22nd Annual New Year's Day Hike, Georges Island Park, Rte 9A, Montrose, 2 PM.

Jan. 13: Georges Island Park, Rte 9A, Montrose, 2 PM.

Jan. 19: Georges Island Park, Rte 9A, Montrose, 2 PM.

Feb. 10: Georges Island Park, Rte 9A, Montrose, 3 PM.

For further information on these free public programs, call the Hudson River Foundation at 212-924-8290.

Do We Need Indian Point?

With help from a lot of people, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. recently filed a petition to intervene in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's re-licensing hearing for Indian Point's reactors. Future articles will address the arguments that we detailed in the comprehensive submission, but let's first examine if we can live without Entergy and its nuclear reactors.

Without Indian Point there would still be a reliable supply of electricity for the New York area. Even if we shut it down tomorrow, there would be adequate generating and transmitting capacity to serve New York City, Westchester County, and the state as a whole.

According to power grid requirements, New York City must have generating capacity within city limits of 80% of its summer peak demand. Currently, that capacity is 82.4% of the forecasted peak demand, and because Indian Point is not located within the city, its shutdown would not change the city's status. In the past few years, a considerable amount of new capacity has been added in the city, exceeding the amount generated by Indian Point, and more is planned.

Even without Indian Point, the city would still have more power available to it than Indian Point can now supply.

Over 5000 megawatts can be imported over the grid from plants in the Hudson River Valley, other upstate New York plants, Canada, New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Since there is excess capacity available in the New England Power Pool and in the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland system, plenty of power would be available even if Indian Point were retired.

Westchester has generously adequate sources to meet its energy needs, especially since much of the city's auxiliary sources flow through the county. More than 5600 megawatts are available to be imported from upstate through existing transmission lines, and this capacity is being increased by expansion of the Millwood substation currently underway. Peak demand in Westchester is less than 2000 megawatts.

If Indian Point were closed, the state's overall reserve margin would drop to about 18%, assuming no new sources and no efficiency or conservation measures. There have been significant time periods in the past when Indian Point was shut down without jeopardizing the system's margin of safety. One reactor was down for almost a year, and nobody noticed.

In emergency situations, power is available to be imported from other states with surplus supplies. In addition, if we embarked on serious energy conservation and efficiency programs, we would have reserve margins well in excess of 18%. Such programs would only have to achieve a fraction of their potential to provide that cushion. So the bottom line is that we really don't need Indian Point.

Pay your dues—support our river!

\$15 Individual & \$20 Family

Is It Time For

Socially Responsible Investing?

Has this idea finally come of age? Over the years there have been a number of funds that have, with varying degrees of accuracy, claimed to be socially responsible. What's an appropriate way to look at these claims?

According to TIAA (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association), socially responsible investing is a process that considers the social and environmental consequences of investments, both positive and negative, within the context of rigorous financial analysis. This might be thought of as the "double bottom line" approach, and entails looking for a financial return and for the social and environmental return as well.

This kind of investing is like a three-legged stool. First, a screening process is used. This means constructing portfolios and investment products where certain securities are screened out of, or into, an account based on a set of defined criteria.

The second leg might be called proactive social investing. This is where efforts are made to achieve competitive returns in assets that also have some strong social aspect that appeals to a wide range of socially conscious investors. Marketing is focused on selected segments of the investor population, especially those associated with specific affinity groups like church or environmental organizations.

Thirdly, a fund can pursue corporate engagement. They will actively engage companies on matters of environmental or social importance. This goes well beyond classic corporate governance issues like board independence and interlocking directorates.

A further consideration is the distinction currently made between corporate engagement and socially responsible investing. Until recently, engagement has emphasized corporate governance involving such issues as executive compensation, conflicts of interest, and corporate board activities. This has been expanded to address broader goals, like environmental responsibility, employee treatment, and how international operations such as overseas manufacturing are conducted. Funds can use their influence as major investors to encourage corporations to have a positive impact on local communities.

A major question is, "How has the 'double bottom line' goal of solid returns and social responsibility worked out in practice?" In recent years, several studies have reported that there is no penalty paid for choosing socially responsible funds, and some have even led the pack in their sector. Social goals such as low-income home ownership, or sending messages to corporations through social screening, are thus compatible with attractive risk-adjusted returns.

As an example of how investing in socially responsible companies can provide good investment results, the Social Choice account of TIAA has provided annual total returns over its 17-year life of 9.92%, compared to its benchmark index of 10.01% — a dead heat. That certainly shows that there is no penalty for responsible investing, and given what's going on, there is no time like the present to invest in a socially responsible manner.



What's Happening When

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

Dec 25, Tues, **Merry Christmas** and Peace on Earth.

Dec 31, Mon, 9pm-1am, **Happy New Year Alcohol-Free Party** sponsored by County Parks Dept. Free music & entertainment, free parking. Food & beverages for purchase. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of event at County Center, White Plains. Info: 995-4050.

Jan 1, Tues, **Happy New Year**. Resolve to make the world a better place. Think globally, act locally, support Riverlovers.

Jan 1, Tues, 2pm, **22nd annual New Year's Day hike sponsored by Hudson River Foundation**, Georges Island Park, Route 9A, Montrose. Join Chris Letts & Tom Lake to spot winter birds: Bald Eagles, Great Cormorants, Black Vultures, Canvasbacks, Coots, and more. Dress warmly.

Jan 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Red Molly**. 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.

Jan 13, Sun, 2pm, **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.

Jan 18, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the third Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Set up our participation in the February 9th Eagle Watch. Check our website for the latest info, at www.riverlovers.org.

Jan 19, Sat, 2pm, **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.

Understanding Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent water from naturally soaking into the ground, where filtration and sequestration can occur. Here's why this is a problem.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water body. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and, most importantly, providing drinking water.

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people. Sediment can

cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow, since they need sunlight. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When the algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels. Additionally, bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, making beach closures necessary.

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.

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

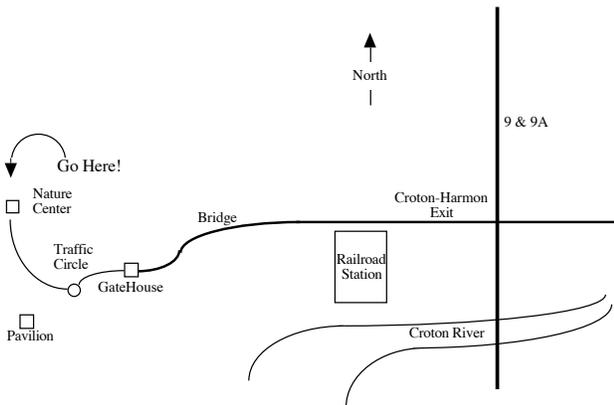
Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

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
January Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Bill Flank, Robin Fox

First Potluck of 2008 Prepare for the Eagles!



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

**Friday, January 18, 2008
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center**