



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 26, Number 1, January 2013

Message From The President

A new year is coming! But let's reflect for a moment on the old year. We ended with a wonderful evening at the Clearwater Holiday Potluck. There were talented musicians, great food and a chance to meet our friends from Clearwater and other Sloop Clubs. We had a very successful sail this year on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. We made efforts to clean up the shore line of the Hudson and some debris in Croton Point Park with Riversweep sponsored by Riverkeeper. We had many outdoor activities, including walks, canoeing, kayaking, and sailing on the Hudson River. We also participated in outreach at the EagleFest, Earth Day and Clearwater Festival. In the cooler weather we screened environmental movies and PBS specials.

We will start the New Year with an encore presentation of *An Inconvenient Truth* at our Friday, January 18th meeting. Former Vice President Al Gore presents an eye-opening compelling view of the future of our planet—and our civilization—in a must-see documentary.

We are excited about Teatown's annual Hudson River EagleFest. This year it will be held on Saturday, February 9th (inclement weather date Sunday, February 10th). This is a very popular winter event. Riverlovers will once more be serving home-made and donated soups and also baked breads at the Croton Point Nature Center for volunteers and vendors from 11am to 2pm.

We need volunteers to bring soups and breads, and to help serve. We also need volunteers for the Outreach Table from 9am to 4pm. Riverlovers will get lots of exposure, since large crowds are expected at the big tent. Call Gunnar at 432-3112 if you can help with soups at the Nature Center or call Warren at 739-9028 if you can help out at the Outreach Table.

Weather permitting, let's have a Potluck on Friday, February 15th at 6:30pm, where we will screen PBS Frontline's "Climate of Doubt." This TV broadcast will show how various organizations that have denied climate change have successfully influenced the public and various elected officials by distortions and outright falsehoods.

For the March 15th Potluck we will screen "Koyaanisqatsi" (Life Out Of Balance, from the Hopi language). It's an astonishing symphony of sound and image, a work of art (from the DVD jacket). In April we will see a PBS special, "America Revealed, Electric Nation," a serious look at our electric power grid and some answers on renewable power.

Looking ahead to April, Riverlovers will again participate in Westchester County Earth Day at Kensico Dam Plaza. There's a lot to look forward to, so plan on taking part. In closing, Happy Holidays to everyone!

Corporate Money & Climate

The Union of Concerned Scientists did some research on corporate influences in the climate science debate (which is really a debate in name only, the science having been settled quite some time back). It's interesting to see, despite what many corporations say for public consumption, where they put their money.

Here's the ratio of pro-climate contributions to anti-climate contributions made by a number of well-known companies in the past few years. As expected, Big Oil's ratios are skewed heavily toward anti-climate contributions, but there are a few good guys too, like AES Energy and NRG Energy. Even traditional bad guys like Alcoa, GE and Boeing are close to even-handed, but that's not saying much.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Pro- Anti- Ratio</u>
AES – Global utility, fossil & renewables	5.4 to 1
Alcoa – aluminum producer	2.7 to 1
Boeing – aerospace manufacturer	1.3 to 1
Caterpillar – construction & mining eqpt.	1 to 4.9
Chesapeake Energy – Regional gas producer	1 to 5.3
Conoco Phillips – Global oil & gas	1 to 15.4
Exxon Mobil – Global oil & gas	1 to 10.1
FMC – Chemical manufacturer	1 to 1.2
General Electric – Technology & finance	1.39 to 1
Marathon Oil – Oil producer & marketer	1 to 14.7
Murphy Oil – Oil producer & marketer	1 to 29
NIKE – Sporting goods	1 to 3.2
NRG Energy – Wholesale power generation	2.7 to 1
Occidental Petroleum – Global oil & gas	1 to 4.9
Peabody Energy – Coal mining	1 to 4
Valereo Energy – Oil refiner & marketer	1 to 9.3
Waste Management – Collection & disposal	1 to 1.3

If you have a choice, you can choose to support those who support the environment and climate sanity with their money as well as their mouth, or at least aren't wildly on the wrong side.

Get To Know The Top 10!

Recycling is one of the most important things we can do to preserve our planet. On a daily basis, more than 100 million Americans participate in recycling used and old materials in their household and offices.

Are you one of them? Or are you still trying to sort which items you can recycle and which ones belong in the compost or the garbage?

To help you, the National Recycling Coalition has put together a list the top ten most important items to recycle.

#1: Aluminum. This is because aluminum cans are 100 percent recyclable and can also be recycled over and over again. Even better, turning recycled cans into new cans takes 95 percent less energy than making brand-new ones. So how about starting with all those soda and juice cans?

#2: PET Plastic Bottles. Americans will buy about 25 billion single-serving bottles of water this year, according to the Container Recycling Institute. Worse yet, nearly 80 percent of those bottles will end up in a landfill. Let's put a stop to that. Making plastic out of recycled resources uses about two-thirds less energy than making new plastic. And because plastic bottles, more than any other type of plastic, are the most commonly used type, they are usually the easiest to recycle.

#3: Newspaper. This is a pretty obvious one, right? It seems like a no-brainer to set up a recycling bin next to your garbage can for newspaper and any other scrap paper. So why should we recycle paper? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, paper makes up about one-third of the municipal waste stream in the U.S. That's a whole lot of paper, and since we know that recycling all that paper conserves resources, saves energy, and doesn't clog up the landfills, there's no reason not to do it.

With those in place, let's move on to the rest of our list.

#4: Corrugated Cardboard. Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) represents a significant percentage of the commercial solid waste stream. In 1996, the U.S. generated 29 million tons of OCC, or 13.8% of our municipal waste stream. Approximately 90% of that comes from the commercial or non-residential sector, the places where we work. So next time UPS delivers a big box to your office, be sure to break it down and recycle it. (After you've emptied it, of course.)

#5: Steel cans. Just like aluminum, steel products can be recycled over again without compromising the quality of the steel. We're talking about steel cans, but maybe you have some steel auto parts or appliances ready for recycling too? More than 80 million tons of steel are recycled each year in North America, and recycling steel saves the equivalent energy to power 18 million households a year.

#6: HDPE plastic bottles (HDPE stands for high-density polyethylene, a common and more dense plastic, which is used for detergents, bleach, shampoo, milk jugs.) HDPE plastics are identified by the logo on the bottom of the container. (Three arrows in the shape of a triangle.) Check the number inside that logo: numbers 1 and 2 are recyclable almost everywhere, but 3 through 7 are only recyclable in limited areas. And don't forget to rinse and clean all of your HDPE containers in the sink. Any remaining dirt or food particles can contaminate the recycling process.

#7: Glass containers. Recycled glass saves 50 percent energy versus virgin glass, and recycling just one glass container saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. Recycled glass generates 20 percent less air pollution and 50 percent less water pollution, and one ton of glass made from 50 percent recycled materials saves 250 pounds of mining waste. Wow!

#8: Magazines and #9: Mixed paper. There are so many reasons to recycle all kinds of paper that it makes no sense not to. First, recycled paper saves 60 percent of energy versus virgin paper, and also generates 95 percent less air pollution. Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water. Sadly, though, every year Americans throw away enough paper to make a 12-foot wall from New York to California. Let's work on changing that!

#10: Computers. Computers can be recycled in a couple of ways, depending on the state of the machine. Giving old, working computers to friends and family members or donating them to nonprofit organizations not only keeps the computer entirely out of the waste stream, but it presents computer access to someone who might not otherwise be able to afford it. Non-working computers can be sent to recycling centers to be dismantled, and valuable components can be recovered.

Of course, there's also reducing and reusing, and if you choose those, you will have even less to recycle!

Do The Climate Change Math

It's simple math: we can only burn 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide-producing fossil fuels and still stay below 2 degrees Celsius (2°C) of planet warming—anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. The only problem? Fossil fuel corporations now have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves, five times the safe amount. And they're planning to burn it all—unless we rise up to stop them.

The International Energy Agency has released its World Energy Outlook and confirmed estimates that the overwhelming majority of known fossil fuel reserves (75-80%) will have to be kept in the ground to avoid 2°C temperature rise. The environmentalist Bill McKibben, who is on a national tour discussing this math, has issued this statement:

"A week after we launched the nationwide 'Do The Math' tour, the planet's chief energy watchdogs put out a huge report that essentially confirms what we've been saying: most of the carbon in the fossil fuel industry's reserves has to stay unburned below the ground if we're going to keep the planet from disastrously overheating.

"For American leaders, keeping carbon in the ground means blocking the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, stopping coal ports on the Pacific Coast, ending mountaintop removal, and cracking down on rampant fracking. Easy long-term gestures aren't enough anymore; ... we have to stop exploiting new extreme energy promptly.

"This is the basic, horrifying math of the planet we live on. Business as usual will bust it. That's why we're on the road spreading the message, and why a divestment campaign is suddenly building out of nowhere.

"Our math is suddenly the mainstream math. It's the fossil fuel industry that's the outlying radical fringe."

Are we—and our leaders—listening?



What's Happening When

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

Jan 1, Tues, **Riverlovers wishes all a Happy New Year. Resolve to pay your dues now!**

Jan 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring The Kennedys.** These dynamic and talented Coffeehouse favorites are a real treat. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets: www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 at \$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: call 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Jan 13, Sun, 6pm, **Uptown Coffeehouse featuring Cliff Eberhardt,** at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham St, City Island. \$15 at door. Info: (718) 885-2955 or www.uptowncoffeehouse.org.

Jan 18, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center.** Start off the year with a presentation of Al Gore's epic film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Share food & current reactions. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Feb 9, Sat, 9am-4pm, **Teatown's annual Hudson River EagleFest.** (Inclement weather date Sat, Feb 10th) **Riverlovers** will again be serving home-made and donated soups and also baked breads at the Croton Point Nature Center for volunteers and vendors from 11am to 2pm. Call Gunnar at 432-3112 to help with soups at the Nature Center or call Warren at 739-9028 to help out at the Outreach Table.

Big Win For Clean Cars

This was a historic event for U.S. consumers and for the future of our nation's costly oil use. The Obama administration just finalized fuel economy and global warming emissions standards for cars and light trucks sold in model years 2017-2025, which will roughly double the fuel efficiency of these vehicles.

The standards will save drivers of a new 2025 vehicle nearly \$8,000 over its lifetime, compared to driving a typical vehicle on the road today. In addition, the standards will reduce global warming emissions by as much as 270 million metric tons in 2030—the equivalent of shutting down 65 coal-fired power plants for one year.

These standards represent the biggest single step our country can take to reduce oil use, cutting consumption by 1.5 million barrels a day in 2030 and putting us on the path towards halving our projected oil use over the next 20 years.

Much work remains to get to this ambitious goal, and we will no doubt have to protect this hard-fought victory, but it's at least a start.

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

It cost \$8.50 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. It's a New Year—a perfect opportunity to pay your dues now. Your environment will thank you!

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 2013 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:

Individual \$40 Mariner \$500

Family \$55 Sailing-Master \$1000

Contributor \$100 Benefactor \$5000

Sponsor \$200 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.
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		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

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

January Newsletter Contributors: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

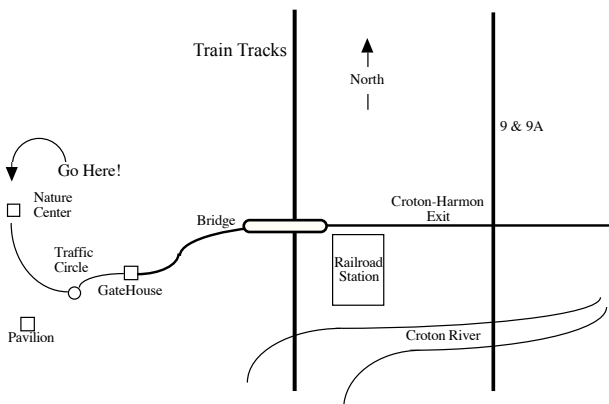
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck See Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



**Friday, January 18, 2013
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center**