



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 27, Number 6-7, June-July 2014

## Message From The President

Busy, busy May 2014, Wow! First, we participated in the Riverkeeper's Riversweep. The area where we decided to help out was the Hudson riverfront at the Annsville Preserve Park. It felt really good to clean up the refuse and leave the riverfront a better place. I enjoyed the view of the Annsville Creek between the railroad bridge and Rte. 9 bridge. Thank you Bill Flank, Gunnar Andersen (and myself) for volunteering, and a special thanks to Daria Gregg for coordinating the Peekskill waterfront area effort.

For our monthly Potluck we screened *'Til The River Runs Clear*. This film is a wonderful tribute to Pete Seeger and the Clearwater. At the end of the film Pete Seeger says, "I feel like the old grandpa now in more ways than one. I see young musicians doing what I tried to do. The young people learning to sail as I learned to sail. I think, but I'm not sure, this campaign is going to go on and on until the water is Clear!"

The next week we went on the FRoGS-sponsored tour of the Great Swamp. They had 5 rescue kayakers stationed along the route. These kayakers also asked everyone a trivia question about the swamp. It was a magical experience seeing the budding trees, beaver lodges, turtles basking, various water birds including a swan, and redwing blackbirds. My favorite was after the Rte. 22 bridge, when the current picked up noticeably, and my kayak swung around all the tight turns. (There was a very heavy rain the day before.)

Arriving at the Green Chimneys take-out we were treated to a live band, and a light meal was provided to the kayakers. This was a 7-mile one-way trip—a nice challenge.

The Westchester County Earth Day celebration at Croton Point Park was a great success, with people of all ages learning about our activities, and what the Riverlovers stand for. We have gathered quite a list of e-mail addresses and phone numbers, to notify people of our future activities

On Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm (instead of May 31<sup>st</sup>), we are again having an opportunity to tour Wildflower Island, at the Teatown Reservation. This tour was very successful last year and was sold out. The date was changed due to concerns that the wildflowers might be past their peak.

The Clearwater Revival Festival will be held on the weekend of June 21-22, which is the week after Fathers' Day. The Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> Potluck will also be a volunteer sign-up for duty hours. For Saturday we need volunteers for the Riverlovers outreach table (four of the volunteers can

only help on Sunday). Please call me at 914-319-3379 if you can help on Saturday. The Clearwater Festival is a wonderful event, and this will be a great opportunity to showcase our Sloop Club.

Bill Flank (a member of the Board of Directors of Clearwater) has arranged with Clearwater for Riverlovers' favorite activity, a sail on the Sloop Clearwater, on Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. It will be a sunset sail from the King Marina in Verplanck. One of the advantages of membership in Riverlovers is a low-cost sail on the Sloop Clearwater. We are asking for a suggested donation of \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members which we share with our parent organization. Send a check made out to Riverlovers to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562. It's a bargain for everyone! Notify Warren how many people in your group will go on the sail. Since we treat this activity as a potluck, bring sandwiches or small bottles of juices, water or soda.

We will have some sails on our members' sailboat, *Solar Wind*. The dates will be Sundays at 2pm on July 27, August 17, and September 7. We will meet at the Senasqua Park dock in Croton. We have room for 4 passengers and 2 crew. Call me or Gunnar if you are interested. This boat is a fun Day-Sailer.

If anyone is interested in a Constitution Marsh canoe trip guided by the Audubon Society, let me know and we will inquire about it. We have done this several times in the past, and it is an interesting, educational and enjoyable trip.

For the September 19<sup>th</sup> Potluck we will screen a PBS program about Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. She wrote an expose' of the chemical industry and its unregulated use of DDT in 1962, and her warning sparked a revolution in environmental policy. Also in Autumn, we will screen other PBS specials including the increasingly relevant *Antarctica Challenge—Global Warming*, and *Car of the Future*.

This will be an interesting Spring, Summer, and Autumn. Be part of Riverlovers, and bring your friends and family to our activities. Thank you for your kind support.

## 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.

## A Tribute to Pete Seeger

by Warren Lindholm

We lost a great man. A really great man!

Among the many activities in his life he co-founded our parent environmental organization, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, in 1966. According to our late Terry Arnold, "We started Clearwater and Riverlovers in my living room."

My own experience with Pete was when he attended one of the Riverlovers ShadFests. I was showing attendees the sunspots on the Sun with my telescope that was fitted with a solar filter. I was thrilled to show Pete that we could look right at the Sun. I explained that normally I view the stars and planets on clear nights, and I showed him my various star charts and astronomy maps. Always thinking about the children, he remarked that there should be children's books for astronomy too.

We were honored that he met up with our last Clearwater sail in August of 2013, as we disembarked in Beacon. Pete was waiting at the dock, and we all had a few words with him. My wife Bruni gave him a hug.

President Barack Obama notes that Seeger had been called "America's Tuning Fork" and that he believed in the power of song to bring social change. "Over the years, Pete used his voice and his hammer—to strike blows for workers' rights, and civil rights; world peace and environmental conservation; and he always invited us to sing along. For reminding us where we came from and showing us where we need to go, we will always be grateful to Pete Seeger."

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### Who's At Risk From Climate Change?

In case you're wondering, here's how climate change will affect different regions of the country.

*Northeast:* Communities are affected by heat waves, more extreme precipitation events, and coastal flooding due to sea level rise and storm surges.

*Southeast and Caribbean:* Decreased water availability, exacerbated by population growth and land use changes, cause increased competition for water. There are increased risks associated with extreme events such as hurricanes.

*Midwest:* Longer growing seasons and rising carbon dioxide levels increase yields of some crops, although these benefits have already been offset in some instances by occurrence of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts and floods.

*Great Plains:* Rising temperatures lead to increased demand for water and energy, and impacts on agricultural practices.

*Southwest:* Drought and increased warming foster wildfires and increased competition for scarce water resources for people and ecosystems.

*Northwest:* Changes in the timing of streamflows related to earlier winter snowmelt reduce the supply of water in summer, causing far-reaching ecological and socioeconomic consequences.

*Alaska:* Rapidly receding summer sea ice, receding glaciers, and thawing permafrost cause damage to infrastructure and major changes to ecosystems. Impacts to Alaska Native communities increase.

*Hawaii and Pacific Islands:* Increasingly constrained freshwater supplies, coupled with increased temperatures,

stress both people and ecosystems, and decrease food and water security.

*Coasts:* Coastal lifelines, such as water supply infrastructure and evacuation routes, are increasingly vulnerable to higher sea levels and storm surges, inland flooding and other climate-related changes.

*Oceans:* The oceans are currently absorbing about a quarter of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere and over 90% of the heat associated with global warming, leading to ocean acidification and the alteration of marine ecosystems. Phytoplankton, the basis of the world-wide food web, is significantly disrupted.

While the planet will survive, we, and other life forms, may not fare so well. Right now, we're just passively watching it happen.

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### Landmark Fracking Ruling

A jury ruled last month that a Texas family claiming they were sickened because of pollution from hydraulic fracturing operations near their home should be awarded \$3 million for their troubles. Aruba Petroleum was sued in 2011, alleging the oil and gas producer exposed them to hazardous gases, chemicals and industrial waste that seeped into the air from 22 wells drilled near the family's 40-acre plot of land, which sits atop the Barnett Shale formation.

According to the complaint, the family began experiencing symptoms like chronic nose bleeding, irregular heartbeat, muscle spasms, and open sores. Testing showed drilling chemicals in blood and lung samples that match chemicals detected by the state in air testing outside the family's home.

The jury returned a 5-1 verdict saying Aruba "intentionally created a private nuisance," awarding \$275,000 for losses on property value, \$2 million for past physical pain and suffering, \$250,000 for future physical pain and suffering, and \$400,000 for mental anguish.

Aruba issued a statement saying "The facts of the case and the law as applied to those facts do not support the verdict. Aruba is an experienced oil and gas operator that is in compliance within the air quality limits set by the Texas Railroad Commission and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality."

The decision is being hailed as the first jury verdict in a fracking case to date. This is because fracking companies have largely been able to dodge injury lawsuits over their operations.

A lot of the earlier tort cases against fracking companies were dismissed because the industry was so successful at withholding information that people couldn't draw connections between the problems they had and what industry was doing. Plaintiffs are unable to prove that the oil or gas extraction process was the actual cause of injury. But now studies are starting to be done, and people are beginning to realize that they can document the impacts.

As more and more studies are showing, horizontal fracturing, or fracking, is responsible for health damage, drinking water and groundwater contamination, earthquake damage, increased rail accidents, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and the list goes on. Who said this was such a great idea?



# 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.

June 13, Fri, 8pm, **Remembering Pete Seeger**. United Methodist Church, Route 9, Hyde Park.

June 15, Sun, noon-5pm, **Beacon Sloop Club's Annual Strawberry Festival**, Riverfront Park, Beacon.

June 20, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Sign up for volunteer Revival shifts for our outreach table. More details on page 1. Info: [www.Riverlovers.org](http://www.Riverlovers.org).

June 21-22, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival** at Croton Point Park. Be a part of the biggest Clearwater event of the year. Info: [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org).

July 19, Sat eve, **SeegerFest Open House, Potluck & Song Circle**, at the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse. Info: [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org).

July 25, Fri, 5:30pm, **Riverlovers Annual Clearwater Sunset Sail**, from King Marina in Verplanck. Suggested donation \$15 members, \$25 non-members. Send checks to Daria, and let Warren know how many. See details on page 1.

July 27, Aug 17, Sept 7, Sun, 2pm, **Sails** on our members' sailboat *Solar Wind*. Call Warren or Gunnar. See page 1.

Watch this space for news about the **Walkabout Clearwater Coffehouse** lineup for next season.

## "It Must Be True—It's On The Internet"

When you look for information, the Internet is often one of the first places you go to. No matter what keywords or phrases you use, a flood of results usually comes up. Suddenly you've gone from not having enough information to having too much. How do you drink from this fire hose and find accurate, reliable information? Here's some guidelines.

**Source:** Who published the information? Who is paying to make it available? Does the source have an agenda or a reason to post information that is not totally objective? Is the site supported by advertisements, and if so, might the advertiser have had reason to slant the material one way or the other? Do you have to pay for the information, and does that buy you some degree of quality control?

**Author:** Who is the author? Is there contact information? With what institutions or organizations is the author associated? What's their reputation, expertise, or credentials in this subject? Is the material anonymous? Why might it be?

**Peer Review:** Has the article or the site been reviewed by other experts in the field? Are there references or links to high-quality supporting information? Is it referenced by other sources considered reputable? Has it been carefully edited, and is it free of typos and inconsistencies?

**Verification:** Can you independently confirm the information? Are the assumptions listed? Are fact and opinion clearly distinguished? Does it agree with other sources, and

pass the "sense" test? Is the presentation balanced, rather than one-sided or slanted?

**Timeliness:** When was the information published, and last updated? Is it still relevant? Is the site reliable—is the information still there a day or a week later?

If you can say the information meets these criteria with flying colors, then maybe it just might be true. Otherwise, it's "buyer beware" and "take it with a grain of salt."

### *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 2014 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](http://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](http://www.riverlovers.org)

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting

June-July Newsletter Contributors: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

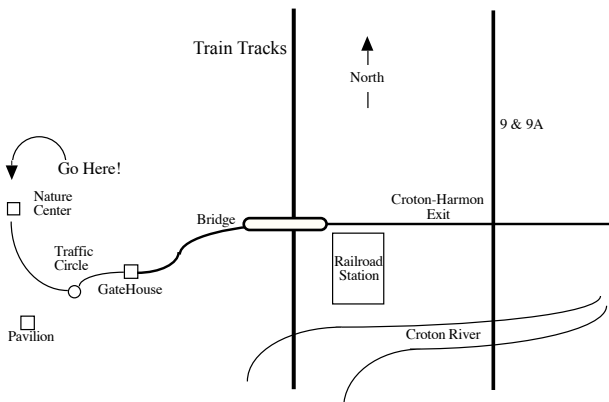
## Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and Revival outreach sign-up



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



**Friday, June 20, 2014**

**6:30pm**

**Croton Point Nature Center**