



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 6-7, June-July 2007

## Riverlovers Doings

Our Potluck on May 18<sup>th</sup> featured a discussion led by Pace University professor (and Riverlover) Bill Flank on how global warming will be affecting us here in the Hudson Valley. Major effects include increased tidal flow and height, destabilizing the river banks; more carbon dioxide dissolving in the water and making it more acidic, adversely affecting plankton production, the basis of the world's food chain; and increased PCB volatilization from tidal flats in the river.

Some of the suggested remedies include reduction in vehicle travel, increased fuel economy standards, and alternative fuels. Energy efficiency in homes, business and industry can cut electricity use by 20% at no net cost to the economy. Aggressive movement into renewable energy can cut our reliance on coal and nuclear power, which give rise to major amounts of pollution.

We also finished last-minute preparations for the ShadFest on May 20<sup>th</sup> that involved lots of Riverlovers, and that turned out to be a great, successful day, our biggest event of the year. See Robin's story elsewhere in this issue.

Join us for our Pre-Revival Potluck on June 15<sup>th</sup> and find out how well we did at our ShadFest, and make arrangements for our participation in the Clearwater Revival weekend at Croton Point Park on June 16 and 17. We need to follow up on our success in signing up new people at the ShadFest, and do the same at Revival. And don't forget the Beacon Sloop Club's Strawberry Festival on June 10<sup>th</sup> at Beacon Waterfront Park.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Riverlovers Sail aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, July 15. For all you hard-working Riverlovers, especially our dedicated ShadFest volunteers, this is a glorious way to say "thank you" and enjoy our river. Get details at the June Potluck. And plan on joining us on July 27<sup>th</sup> for our summer Potluck and seining session by the bay (actually Mother's Lap), with Croton Naturalist Scott Williamson. See the calendar on page three for more details.

## ShadFest 2007

First glance out the window on Sunday May 20, at 5:30am, and I wanted to be on a Caribbean island, where the wind wasn't blowing, the rain wasn't falling, and where it was warm. But, the show had to go on.

And it did! When the sky blued, and the sun came out, around 10am, being at Croton Point Park was better than

being on a Caribbean island. We'd gathered a lot of vendors and "activists", some new, along with many good old friends. The music was wonderful: The Matt Turk Trio, The Walkabout Clearwater Chorus, and our can't-have-a-ShadFest-without-'em, Lightning Screamed from Gertrude. Arm-of-the-Sea brought a new show to delight, then the Westchester Model Airplane Association put on a demonstration up on their flying field at the end of our day. A lot of fun for all.

It was too bad that we were unable to serve shad. The run was meager this year, plus it was interrupted several times by storms. Riverlovers served grilled salmon, while Chris Letts planked salmon fillets and Tom Lake smoked salmon fillets. There were some disappointed customers, but on the whole, everyone understood the situation. Hopefully, next year circumstances will favor us for shad.

Huge thanks are due to all the tireless (and tired) volunteers who produced our event. We missed several of our long-time hands, but found some new, splendidly helpful volunteers.

Special thanks go to Daria who does a magnificent job of organizing the food, to Eric and Gunnar for herding together the vendors, to Cynthia for collecting the "activists." Did any of you hear the publicity spots which ran on WLNA during the week before ShadFest?

Once again, there was George Thompson's mellifluous voice narrating the Hudson River history spots written long ago by Jon Lambert, and brought up to date by Don Bennett.

Many thanks to John McLaughlin of the Beacon Sloop Club for bringing their solar trailer to power the Westchester County sound system. And thanks too, for the Beacon Sloop Clubbers who brought their famous chili to power the diners. It was wonderful to have Ferry Sloops and their desserts with us too.

A really HUGE round of applause and thanks are due to The Hudson River Foundation. Without its support, we could not put on our ShadFest. The Foundation gives us Chris Letts, Tom Lake, and Barry Keegan, Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, and WLNA publicity. Another HUGE round of applause is due Michael Malsbury and Tino Martin, superintendents at Croton Point Park and their crew. Those guys were everywhere!

Mark your calendars for ShadFest 2008. Bring your hard working twin. It will be *our* 18th ShadFest, and it will be on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

## “Swim For The River”—Part II

by Cynthia Andersen

We continue our journey with Chris Swain as he swims down the Hudson River. We discover that although water power is no longer king, not all polluters have left the river.

In Chapter 6, Swain tries to swim through Glens Falls, but cannot because of the toxins in the water. Swain and his crew stumble across Finch Pruyn's paper mill's outfall pipe, which spews tons of pollutants into the river. During the 1990's Finch Pruyn, a paper company, repeatedly violated pollution laws and was one of the top polluters on the Hudson River. The damage peaked in 1998, when 2,800 tons of toxic nitrates were released into the Hudson.

Finch Pruyn continues to discharge pollutants under the terms of its SPDES state permit (State Pollution Discharge Elimination System). SPDES sets maximum amounts of pollutants that the permit holder is allowed to put into the river but has allowed Finch Pruyn, in any 24-hour period, to put up to 15 pounds of cyanide, 21 pounds of zinc, 4 pounds of phenol, and various amounts of copper, chloroform, sulfate, aluminum, titanium and molybdenum, and methanol, as well as 63,000 pounds of unspecified waste into our Hudson River. The purpose of SPDES is *elimination* of industrial pollution of air and water, as cleaner, more efficient technology becomes available. In New York State, SPDES permits are renewed every five years. One might expect that with each new renewal the pollution levels allowed by permit would be reduced.

While there are techniques Finch Pruyn could use to increase environmental efficiency, they have declined to voluntarily reduce their toxic effluents. There is no short-term economic incentive and little pressure from local citizens or government to get the company to reduce its toxic impact. Will the citizens of Glens Falls take a stand? Or is Finch Pruyn to Glens Falls what International Paper was to Corinth—an unassailable economic pillar of the community?

In Chapter 7 we learn about the "History of PCBs." In brief, PCBs were discovered in the 1890's and proved useful as an insulating fluid. They were used in capacitors, transformers, dyes, asphalt, paper paints and more. Harmful side effects were noted in 1937 in workers exposed to the chemicals. From 1947, GE used PCBs in the manufacture of capacitors and transformers. GE's factories on the Hudson pumped PCB-laden waste into the river.

PCBs were declared a health risk in 1976. Commercial fishing on the Hudson was banned and the Clean Water Act prohibited the dumping of PCBs. Under the 1980 Superfund Law, 200 miles of the Hudson were declared a cleanup site. Dredging the Hudson was proposed, but GE launched an ultimately unsuccessful campaign to persuade the public it was unnecessary. PCBs are implicated in a wide range of illnesses. They can compromise the physical and mental development of children, and the human reproductive system can be disrupted by PCBs. Dredging may not actually begin until early 2009, according to a recent EPA statement.

If, like Chris Swain, we ever thought about swimming the Hudson River, August 14, 2003 would have been a very bad day for it. On that day, half a billion gallons of raw New York City sewage poured into the Hudson River and adja-

cent waterways. Raw sewage is everything you wash down the sink and flush down the toilet, plus waste from appliances and commercial industries. What can we all do to reduce sewage overflow? Think about it and send your ideas to *Currents* care of Riverlovers, Inc., P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, New York, 10520. Next time I will be writing about our living estuary, and the work of the Clearwater and other environmental organizations that are using environmental laws to help clean up our Hudson River.

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## Neutralize Your Pollution With Offsets

The people at Environmental Defense have a new wrinkle in the fight against global warming. They want you to take a personal inventory of your global warming pollution, and then buy carbon offsets based on that calculation.

Here's how it works. Even if you have already reduced your driving and electricity use, there's more you can do. Through the purchase of offsets, you can neutralize the rest of your pollution. When you buy them, you essentially pay someone to reduce or remove global warming pollution in your name.

For example, when you buy 10 tons of carbon offsets, the seller guarantees that 10 fewer tons of pollution go into the atmosphere. While the pollution you produce yourself is the same, you get the credit for that 10-ton reduction.

Shopping for offsets, however, can be confusing if you're not an expert. It can be hard to tell how much pollution is really being reduced or removed. But Environmental Defense has done the work for you. Offsets were evaluated by a team of experts, and several meet their standards for credibility and quality, with prices ranging from \$4 to \$8 per metric ton (that's 2200 pounds, instead of 2000 pounds).

Carbonfund.org works with dairy farms in California. Manure from 14 farms is collected daily and processed in a closed environment that captures greenhouse gases. The recovered gases are used to power a nearby groundwater clean-up system.

Natsource LLC represents select DuPont and Blue Source emission reduction projects. They are located in Kentucky, Maine, Texas and Wyoming, and they reduce emissions by preventing pollution, switching to cleaner fuels, and capturing and storing carbon.

AtmosClear Climate Club works with a landfill in Illinois. Greenhouse gases from the landfill are collected so they do not escape to the atmosphere, and are used to generate electricity. In addition, the project reduces odor and the potential for groundwater contamination.

e-BlueHorizons projects capture heat-trapping gases from landfills in New England. One project in Massachusetts uses the recovered gases to generate electricity. Another in New Hampshire uses them to treat wastewater from the landfill. A portion of the proceeds is also used to plant trees along the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

DrivingGreen's projects work with livestock farmers in Mexico. Captured greenhouse gases from animal waste are used to generate energy. The projects can also improve local air quality and reduce risk of groundwater contamination.

For more information, check out the Environmental Defense website at [www.fightglobalwarming.com](http://www.fightglobalwarming.com).



# What's Happening When

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

June 2, Sat, 2pm, **Ponding in the Park at Croton Point Nature Center.** Visit our freshwater ponds and discover what's in them. Nets and buckets will be provided. Info: 862-5297.

June 8, Fri, 1-3pm & June 9, Sat, 9am-3pm, **Household Chemical Clean-up Days** at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.

June 9, Sat, 2pm, **Seining in the Park at Croton Point Nature Center.** We'll use a 25-foot net to learn about estuary ecology. Info: 862-5297.

June 10, Sun, 12-6pm, **Beacon Sloop Club's Strawberry Festival** at Beacon Waterfront Park, next to Metro-North train station. Info: [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org).

June 10, Sun, 1-4pm **MALFA Archaeology Open House at Croton Point Nature Center.** See exhibits & find out what the local archaeology organization does. Info: 862-5297.

June 15, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Pre-Revival Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Find out how we did at Shad-Fest, get details for the Riverlovers' Clearwater Sail, and make final plans for Riverlovers' part in Revival.

June 16 & 17, Sat & Sun, 10am-dusk, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point Park.** Order your tickets early, or sign up now to be a Sloop Club Tent Volunteer for Riverlovers. Info: (845) 454-7673, ext. 123 or (800) 67SLOOP or [www.CLEARWATERFESTIVAL.org](http://www.CLEARWATERFESTIVAL.org).

June 22, Fri, 8:30pm, **All You Ever Wanted to Know About Moths,** at Croton Point, with Charlie Roberto. Co-sponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon Society. Meet at Park office. Info: 862-5297.

July 3, Tues, 6-10pm, **Kensico Dam Music Fest, with Westchester Philharmonic & fireworks.** Kensico Dam Plaza gates open at 5pm for picnicking, entertainment at 6pm, music at 8pm & fireworks. Bring chairs & blankets. Free admission & parking.

July 6, Fri, 7:30pm, **Native Lore of the Hudson, at Croton Point Nature Center.** Storyteller Jonathan Kruk and Scott Williamson tell the history of Croton Point through the eyes of Native Americans who lived there. Info: 862-5297.

July 8, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Archaeology Open House at Croton Point Nature Center.** See exhibits & find out what the local archaeology organization does. Info: 862-5297.

July 15, Sun, 2-5pm. **Riverlovers "Thank-You" Clearwater Sail.** Alpine boat basin. Call Robin to sign up: 271-6088.

July 27, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck, and Seining by the Bay.** Potluck picnic supper in the Mother's

Lap corner of the beach, down the steep hill from the Nature Center. Scott Williamson will share a seining with us and fill us in on river ecology.

July 28, Sat, 11am-1pm, **Dragonflies & Butterflies, at Croton Point Nature Center.** The park has lots of these winged wonders in summer. Paul Kaim will lead the search for them. Co-sponsored by Brooklyn Bird Club. Binoculars & cameras welcome. Info: 862-5297.

*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 2007 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  
 Visa       MC       Discover       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](http://www.riverlovers.org)

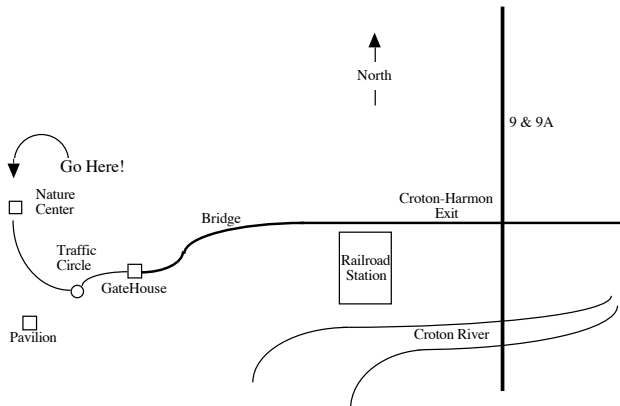
### Newsletter Submissions

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

June-July Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Bill Flank, Robin Fox

## Pre-Revival Potluck and ShadFest report



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

**Friday, June 15, 2007**  
**6:30pm**  
**Croton Point Nature Center**