



# Riverlovers Currents

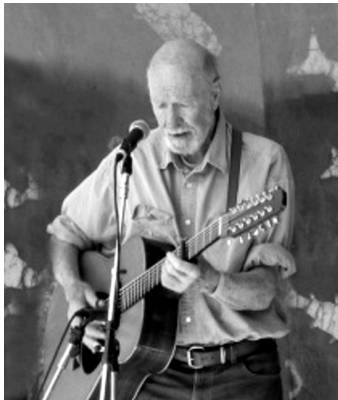
Volume 23, Number 6-7, June-July 2010

## Message From The President

Plan on joining us for the traditional pre-Revival Potluck on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Croton Point Nature Center. We'll finalize arrangements for volunteer coverage of the Riverlovers outreach table in the Revival Sloop Club tent.

The Great Hudson River Revival Festival is on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and promises to be a great weekend. There's lots going on, so don't miss it.

Two more future events: Seining with Scott Williamson on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Croton Point Park on the beach at Mothers Lap. And what we all enjoy, a sail on the sloop Clearwater on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Beacon dock. Put these events on your calendar!



### Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

presents the Great Hudson River Revival Festival, at Croton Point Park, on June 19 and 20. Pete Seeger will again headline a eclectic list of performers. Get your tickets online now at:

[www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org)

## County Household Recycling Days

The dates are Friday, June 11 from 1 to 3pm and Saturday, June 12 from 9am to 3pm, at Westchester Community College in Valhalla.

You can drop off labeled household chemicals, including automotive fluids, flammable liquids, pesticides, herbicides, photography and swimming pool chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, cell phones, batteries, tires, electronic waste, expired drugs and more. Call (914) 813-5425 for more information.

## Pay your dues now—support our river! \$15 Individual & \$20 Family

It cost \$7.60 a year to send you the *Riverlovers Currents*. Please consider adding at least that much to your annual dues. Support your Newsletter!

## Autism And Toxins

Autism was initially identified in 1943 in a medical journal article. Since that time, it has become a very common malady. The Centers for Disease Control has recently reported that almost one percent of children are affected with autism disorders.

Other developmental disorders also seem to have proliferated in recent decades, along with certain types of cancers in children and in adults. It is not known why this is so, and this has not been a topic in the health care debate, despite the huge financial and human costs.

There is a growing sense that chemicals in our environment may be responsible, and articles to that effect are starting to appear in medical journals with increasing frequency. One such article cites "historically important proof-of-concept studies that specifically link autism to environmental exposures experienced prenatally." The author, a highly reputable pediatric and preventive medicine specialist, also says that the likelihood is high that many chemicals have "potential to cause injury to the developing brain and to produce neurodevelopmental disorders."

While the article is full of typically cautious language, there is a strong implication that autism and other ailments are, at least in part, the result of the effect of chemical contamination in the environment on an infant's brain as it is being formed. If babies are exposed in the womb or shortly after birth to chemicals that interfere with brain development, the consequences of that will last a lifetime.

Concerns about toxic chemicals in the environment used to be an extremist view, but alarm bells are now being sounded by toxicologists, endocrinologists and oncologists, among others. While some of the increased incidence may be due to better diagnosis, and there is some genetic predisposition, that explains only a minority of the cases.

Certain medications have been implicated in higher incidences, like the sedative thalidomide, misoprostol and the anticonvulsant valproic acid. Pregnant women especially should not be exposed to such drugs.

Of the 80,000 chemicals registered for use in the U.S., the EPA has required safety testing of only 200 of them. We, and especially our children, have become unwilling test subjects. Researchers have measured the levels of phthalates in pregnant women's urine, and found that, years later,

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## Indian Point Update

by Marilyn Elie

While every day brings a new twist or turn, right now things seem promising for not re-licensing Indian Point.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued a denial for a water quality certificate. The water quality certification is crucial and it was confirmed at an NRC meeting last week that the plant could not be re-licensed without one. Unless of course they change the rules—which has happened in the past.

It looks like the DEC is using Indian Point as a template and will require 17 major users of water up and down the Hudson to comply with the Clean Water Act. Entergy is appealing the DEC decision. The 23-page letter from the DEC to Entergy is on their website. We can be very proud of DEC Commissioner Pete Granis and how the Department under his direction is moving towards a cleaner and healthier Hudson River after years of inaction.

The Public Service Commission turned down Entergy's request for a new sham corporation for Indian Point. It would have taken out all of the profit and left Indian Point, Enexus as they called it, saddled with huge debt. The PSC rightly ruled that while this was profitable for Entergy stockholders, it was not a good deal for New York taxpayers.

This leaves Entergy with large debt load, since they have not paid off the money they borrowed to purchase Indian Point, which will come due in 2012. This is about the same time they may have to invest a lot of money in closed cycle cooling for Indian Point and the other reactors they own in New York. There was a Moody's report that spoke of possibly down-grading their credit rating, and their share price fell accordingly.

Clearwater's contentions on environmental justice are still in play and the New York Attorney General's Office continues to do amazingly complicated and difficult work with their contentions. The fact that the 30-inch Algonquin gas line passes above ground right next to the plant may also get some much-needed consideration now.

Entergy is mounting a multi-million dollar PR campaign designed to scare people and politicians by threatening huge raises in electricity bills and blackouts. None of this is true, of course. Please encourage your Sloop Club members and anyone else to contact their local elected officials and let them know that Indian Point is still a major concern.

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## Recycling Cell Phones

You just switched cell phone carriers and received a brand-new smart phone. Your old phone is now a useless paper-weight. What do you do with it? Or maybe you've upgraded to a new iPod and your old one is sitting in your drawer, probably never to be used again.

Many people take these outdated devices and throw them in the trash. The resulting "e-waste" is becoming a serious environmental problem. Toxic products that these electronics contain may leach into landfills, contaminating our water resources. Or they may end up being incinerated with our kitchen garbage, releasing dangerous toxins into the air we breathe.

In a widely-viewed internet video, "The Story of Stuff," (www.storyofstuff.com) Annie Leonard describes the com-

mon desire to replace perfectly good products with the latest gadget. She calls this "perceived obsolescence." One simple way to reduce e-waste, then, is to extend the life of your things by resisting this temptation. When the time does come to discard your small electronic device, there are a number of environmentally responsible methods to see that they are recycled or reused.

Local municipal and county governments have made great strides in recent years in increasing recycling in our communities. Many communities have recycling centers that will accept cell phones and other electronic items. Westchester County schedules a number of days throughout the year when various types of hazardous household waste may be dropped off at designated sites around the county. Cell phones and other devices can be recycled at those times. There are dates and places on the county website (environment.westchestergov.com).

A number of local businesses will also accept cell phones for recycling. These include Mrs. Green's Natural Markets in Yorktown and Briarcliff Manor. Staples office supply stores will recycle cell phones and certain small computer peripherals like ink cartridges. There may be a charge for dropping off larger devices or computers, so call or visit your local store to check

Web sites that will buy your used cell phones, MP3 players, and other small electronics such as digital cameras include: [www.nextworth.com](http://www.nextworth.com) and [www.buymytronics.com](http://www.buymytronics.com).

Recycling is an important part of maintaining environmental quality. It is part of the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and it goes hand in hand with careful disposal of toxic materials in our everyday devices.

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## True Magic

*You're pulling rabbits out of hats?*

*That's such an easy trick to play.*

*I won't waste time on copycats*

*On this magnificent day.*

*I'll keep my eyes on Nature's sleeves,*

*A feat of magic that is free,*

*And watch her pull astounding leaves*

*Out of the bare arms of each tree.*

*Gerald Lebowitz*

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their children were more likely to exhibit disruptive behavior. Phthalates are commonly found in fragrances, shampoos, cosmetics and nail polishes, and as plasticizers in many plastic products used in the home.

While it is true that the popularized claims that vaccinations cause autism—a theory that has now been completely discredited—have created fears among the public, this is all the more reason to educate the public about the precautionary principle. We should be wary of personal products like fragrances unless they are labeled phthalate-free. Particularly for children and pregnant women, avoid plastics that are marked types 3,6 and 7, since they are the ones most associated with potentially dangerous toxins. Knowledge, not fear, is the best antidote of all.



# What's Happening When

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

June 6, Sun, 5pm, **Uptown Coffeehouse featuring Rod MacDonald**, singer-songwriter of ballads & folksongs. At 4450 Fieldston Road, Bronx. Sponsored by Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture. Tickets \$15. Info: 718-885-2955 or [www.uptowncoffeehouse.org](http://www.uptowncoffeehouse.org).

June 13, Sun, 12-5pm, **Beacon Sloop Club Strawberry Festival**, at Beacon Riverfront Park.

June 18, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. The traditional pre-Revival Potluck sets the scene for the great weekend that follows. Find out what's in store, and help arrange for staffing our table in the Sloop Club tent. Info: [www.Riverlovers.org](http://www.Riverlovers.org).

June 19-20, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival**, at Croton Point Park. Get your tickets now at [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org), or volunteer and help staff the Riverlovers outreach table.

July 23-25, Fri-Sun, **22nd Annual Falconridge Folk Festival**, at Dodds Farm, Hillsdale, NY. Three days of folk music, dance and more. Toll-free tickets: 866-325-2744. Info: 860-364-0366 or [www.FalconRidgeFolk.com](http://www.FalconRidgeFolk.com) or [info@FalconRidgeFolk.com](mailto:info@FalconRidgeFolk.com).

July 26, Mon, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Special Potluck & Seining with Scott Williamson**. In Croton Point Park at the beach in the corner at Mothers Lap. Info: [www.Riverlovers.org](http://www.Riverlovers.org).

August 19, Thurs, 6-9pm, **Riverlovers annual Clearwater sail**, leaving from the dock at Beacon. Mark your calendars!

## Frightening Food Facts

Did you know, and does it scare you that:

Only 1% of imported produce, fish and processed foods are inspected. What's worse, because the federal government refuses to allow country-of-origin labeling for processed foods such as roasted nuts, mixed vegetables and frozen fish, there is no way for consumers to protect themselves from this potential threat.

Despite new research that shows artificial hormones may contribute to a five-fold increase in twin pregnancies for American women, the federal government still allows cows to be injected with these controversial drugs. They are banned in Canada and Europe, but not here.

Much of the seafood sold in American grocery stores is imported, and raised offshore in giant fish farms. In these facilities fish are grown in giant nets and cages that are filled with antibiotics, hormones, pesticides and animal waste.

Instead of forcing meat producers to fix serious sanitation problems at factory farms and slaughterhouses, the federal government allows them to take dangerous shortcuts like pumping livestock full of antibiotics, dipping carcasses in toxic disinfectants, and irradiating meat.

According to independent laboratory tests, ten widely sold U.S. bottled water brands contained mixtures of 38 different pollutants, including bacteria, fertilizer, Tylenol and industrial chemicals. Bottled water does not have to meet EPA drinking water standards, because it is regulated by the FDA instead.

Wait, there's more! Keep yourself informed and check it out at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org).

### 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 2010 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.  
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:	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



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

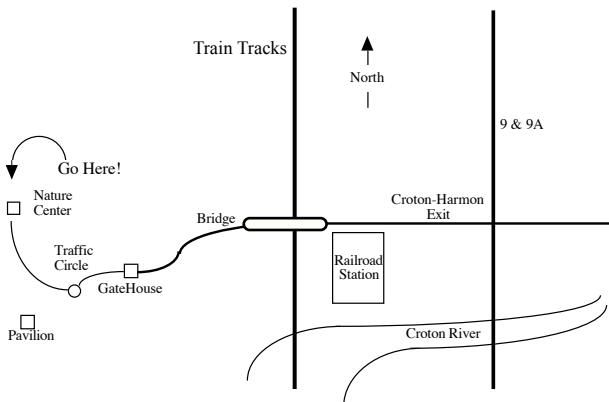
### Newsletter Submissions

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: Marilyn Elie, Robin Fox, Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm, Ann Swaim

## Riverlovers Pre-Revival Potluck 6:30pm, Friday, June 18, 2010 Croton Point Nature Center



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

## Riverlovers Potluck and Seining 6:30pm, Monday, July 26, 2010 Mother's Lap at Croton Point