



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 29, Number 6-7, June-July 2016

## Message from the President

It is so nice to see the trees sprouting new leaves in the springtime. The earth breathes! The CO<sub>2</sub> levels drop at this time of year. Alas, when Fall and Winter return, the CO<sub>2</sub> levels will rise again, most likely higher than last year's highest level. (Most of Earth's land mass is in the northern hemisphere.) Unfortunately, this will keep happening as mankind continues its voracious appetite for fossil fuels.

The Riversweep sponsored by Riverkeeper was very successful, and 39 tons of trash were collected by 2200 volunteers up and down the Hudson River. Riverlovers and the Unitarian Church cleaned up at Georges Island Park. Thank you, Robert Reardon, Gunnar Andersen, Daria Gregg, and yours truly, for participating.

At a well-attended May Potluck, Cynthia Andersen gave a great talk on American Impressionism. The next week Riverlovers visited the art exhibit and the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. (See Cynthia's article in this issue.)

We are planning several canoe outings in the near future. The first is Iona Marsh, nestled in the Hudson Highlands adjacent to Bear Mountain State Park. This is run by the NYSDEC. We are splitting the days we can do this outing. They are Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am, and Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. This outing is free, but pre-registration is required. Call me for details.

The second outing is at Constitution Marsh. We are going Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. There are four other dates available: Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon, and Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon. The price is \$45 for adults, \$40 for seniors. Again, call me for details.

The third outing is the Great Swamp near Green Chimneys on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am, 10:30am, and 1:45pm. The price is \$32. Contact me if you are interested in any of these outings (914-319-3379).

On land we'll walk the new Peekskill walkway from Fleishman's Pier at Charles Point Pier Park at the corner of Louisa Street and John Walsh Blvd. to the Peekskill train station and possibly beyond the Rotunda to a new walkway for another 1/2 mile. We'll go on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm.

The June Potluck will be on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We will finally screen "March of the Penguins," a National Geographic special. Also this Summer we will sail on our members' sailboat, the *Solar Wind*, every 2 or 3 weeks. Call Warren for details.

The Sloop Clearwater had extensive hull work this Winter and Spring. The boat should be launched by the end of June. Our Annual Riverlovers Sail is set for Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 4pm, sailing from Cold Spring (pending confirmation). Members contribute \$25, guests \$35 to help Clearwater recover its financial health. Call Warren to reserve your spot—first come, first served.

We plan on resuming our screenings of videos of environmental interest, and would like to have speakers give talks on environmental issues during the Fall and Winter.

Come to our meetings and activities. Members and non-members are welcome. Together we can be educated and educate others to protect the Hudson River and save the Earth and its climate for ourselves and future generations.

## Another Big Gulf Of Mexico Oil Spill!

Shell Oil just dumped nearly 90,000 gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico early in May. Their unapologetic and indifferent response to this spill—they don't even use the word "spill" (Shell calls it a "release")—reveals how commonplace offshore oil spills have become, particularly in the Gulf. To Big Oil, frequent oil spills, polluted water, dead wildlife, and even climate change are all just the cost of doing business. That's the cost *we all pay*—for *their* profit.

Our most vulnerable communities are at risk, both from rising sea levels and the very real dangers posed by offshore drilling. Everyone remembers the catastrophic BP oil disaster in the Gulf, but there have been at least 44 large offshore oil spills since 1964, and "smaller" spills occur on a daily basis. (A "large" oil spill is defined by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management as being greater than 42,000 gallons.) In the past 45 years, the Bureau estimates that more than 500,000 barrels of oil (there are 42 gallons in a barrel) have leaked, unreported, into American waters.

President Obama has declared a five-year moratorium on drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. We need to act now to also protect the Arctic and the Gulf of Mexico from more years of dangerous offshore oil drilling. It's time to move beyond dirty fuels and transition to clean, renewable energy!

**Pay your dues now—support our river!**

**\$25 Individual & \$35 Family**

It cost \$9.30 a year to send you *Riverlovers Currents*. Please consider adding at least that much to your annual dues.

## Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas

by Cynthia Andersen

From May 14<sup>th</sup> to September 11, 2016, The New York Botanical Garden is presenting *Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas*, which explores the importance of American gardens, from intimate, private spaces at artists' homes to formal estate gardens to public parks, in the work of American Impressionists. Our own Daria Gregg, who volunteers weekly at the Botanical Garden and occasionally also takes courses there, arranged a wonderful tour of the Gardens for us Riverlovers on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

The New York Botanical Gardens is one of many cultural institutions, now in its 125<sup>th</sup> year, which is grounded in the same reverence for nature and belief in the power of gardens to improve lives which is expressed in the Impressionist paintings we saw at the current exhibition. Impressionism emerged as an artistic style in the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. I was happy that Daria asked me to present a preview lecture to Riverlovers to acquaint them with the basic elements of Impressionism. High-keyed colors from synthetic materials, readily available in tubes, made it easy for artists to paint out-of-doors and study the fleeting effects of light. Photography encouraged the exploration of luminous colors. The introduction of Japanese prints influenced asymmetrical compositions with rhythmic, flattened, brightly colored forms.

We viewed paintings and sculptures by iconic artists, including Childe Hassam, William Merritt Chase, John Singer Sargent and others on display in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library's Art Gallery. Daria then led us through the Conservatory where we could see plants such as poppies, hollyhocks, beds of irises, phlox, lilies, peonies, rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, goldenrods, and dozens of other flowers; all of which were depicted in the paintings we had just seen.

A rich suite of programming complements the Conservatory and Library exhibitions, with a poetry walk and poetry readings, film screenings, and live performances of American music. We ended the afternoon watching a dazzling performance of tap dancing, lunch at the Cafeteria and a Tram ride around the magnificent 250 acres of the New York Botanical Gardens. Thanks again to Daria for a wonderful day from: Warren, Jan, Hannah, Kirsten, Terry, Hollis, Bill, Sandy, Gunnar and yours truly, Cynthia.

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### The Dark Side Of Nuclear Power

A recent editorial in *Chemical & Engineering News*, the official publication of the American Chemical Society, prompted an eye-opening letter to the editor which deserves sharing in its entirety. It was titled "*Assessing nuclear power.*" It could have been titled *The Nuclear Bridge To Nowhere*, and here it is:

"It is fascinating that the editorial titled 'Nuclear's Vulnerability' begins its discussion of nuclear power with two very well-known disasters connected with the nuclear power industry, Chernobyl and Fukushima, yet omits the disturbingly long string of accidents and disasters related to nuclear power and its associated materials production that go

back to the 1950s. The editorial also completely omits what could be called the decades-long fiscal disaster that is the enormous government and taxpayer subsidies required to bring this potentially deadly form of power into existence.

Discussions of this sort are more complete when we consider the Soviet explosion in Mayak in 1957 (unknown in the West until 1980); the NRX and NRU accidents in Canada in 1952 and 1958, respectively; the radioactivity release from Windscale in England in 1957; the fatalities associated with the explosion near Idaho Falls, Idaho, in 1961; [ed note: *Also the Tokaimura, Japan, accident in 1999, and the Three Mile Island meltdown in Pennsylvania in 1979*], releases in France; or the many other leaks or near misses that have been recorded. Does any other power source have a track record as bad and as poisonous as nuclear? [ed note: *Think coal!*]

"Similarly, if we examine government spending to bolster this power source and congressional legislation that forces taxpayers to pay for the repair of facilities where accidents might occur, it is hard to find any other business in the U.S. that requires this much government intervention.

"Left on its own in a competitive market, nuclear power would never exist. It simply cannot make a profit. It is truly sad to look at the dollars spent over the past seven decades and imagine what world we might now have if all this expenditure had been put to solar, wind, and wave power.

"The editorial wisely asks: 'How do you plan and prepare for the unknown and the unpredictable?' The better question is, What has brought us to this form of planning, when every other power source ever conceived of does not require planning that involves scattered radioactivity, with all the death, polluted land, water, and air; and loss associated with nuclear? In short, why are we still even considering more nuclear power? Is it just our arrogance, thinking we'll get it right this time? We won't." [ed note: *Witness the small but growing number of reactors already shut down or threatening shutdown (like in New York), based on poor economics, and the picture is clear.*]

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### Climate Gamble

by Warren Lindholm

A historic moment in the fight against climate change occurred in April, 2014, when the Canadian province of Ontario burned its last load of coal in a power plant. Thus, Ontario became the first large area in North America to quit burning coal, a full year ahead of schedule.

Ontario's achievement remains almost invisible in the climate and energy debate. To our knowledge, not one environmental group has used it as an example, nor have they ever mentioned it, as far as we know. Ontario's success is undeniable. We suspect the reason why it has been largely ignored is simple, yet troubling: Ontario produces more than half of its electricity with nuclear power, and has increased nuclear power production since 2003 by more than a quarter.

The largest gamble of them all! We need everything we can get to quit fossil fuels. In order to have a chance of avoiding the potentially devastating effects of climate change, humanity must reduce its energy production to nearly carbon-free by 2050. This requires renewables,

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# What's Happening When

Sundays, 10am-3pm, **Farmers' Market** at the Beacon Sloop Club, at Long Dock Park in Beacon. Local cheeses, eggs, pasta, bread, lamb, fruits and vegetables.

June 12, Sun, 11-4:30pm, Beacon Sloop Club Strawberry Festival at Riverfront Park. Beacon's biggest annual festival!

June 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. We will screen (finally) "March of the Penguins," a National Geographic special. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

July 3, Sun, 2:00pm, Riverlovers walk on the new Peekskill Walkway. Info: See page 1, or call Warren for more details.

July 7, Thurs, 7:30pm, **Ferry Sloops Summer Music Series**, at Shattemuc Yacht Club, Ossining. Free concert featuring Kathleen Pemble. Potluck supper at 6:30pm.

July 24, Sun, 6:00-9:00pm, **Ferry Sloops' fundraiser cruise aboard the Evening Star thru the Hudson Highlands**, with historical commentary & live music. Departs from Riverfront Green Park in Peekskill. Tickets \$35/person. Potluck supper, purchase soft drinks, beer & wine on-board. Reserve tickets at info@ferrysloops.org.

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energy conservation and efficiency, nuclear power, and carbon capture and storage. We cannot pick and choose!

Concerning nuclear power's role in mitigating climate change, it has been calculated that 1000 gigawatts of additional nuclear power would be required, by mid-century. This is 1000 reactors of 1000 megawatts.

In 2009, the world's commercial nuclear fleet had a 370 gigawatts capacity and produced 2,600,000 gigawatt-hours of base-load electricity. This prevented 4 billion tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted to the atmosphere.

If the scenarios of renewables and conservation are overly optimistic and nuclear is opposed with the current unyielding fervor, the limitations of renewables will be patched up with more fossil fuels. There is evidence gathering that we might be already too late.

A policy that seeks to ban outright the most important low-carbon base-load energy source ever deployed is more than a gamble. It is a reckless endangerment of the future of our living planet.

## Book Review—"The Climate Casino"

The subtitle of this book by Yale University's William Nordhaus is "Risk, Uncertainty, and Economics for a Warming World." He is one of the world's leading thinkers on the economics of global warming, and president of the American Economic Association. His central message in the book: Climate change is an urgent economic issue with impacts that have spiraling costs.

Nordhaus has been making this point to economists for years, but now he's reaching out to general readers as well. It's an engaging book. He estimates that over the 21st

century, the costs of American hurricane damages will more than double, at about \$12 billion a year. He has calculated how much it will cost to effectively tax away carbon pollution, and fears that the tax will raise the price of most economic activity.

He comes to a very clear conclusion: Acting to stop climate change costs money. Ignoring the problem costs more—a lot more. These are just the facts, and they are sobering. The big question is whether we'll face up to them.

### 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 2016 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, River-lovers' 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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
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):		
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: Cynthia Andersen, Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

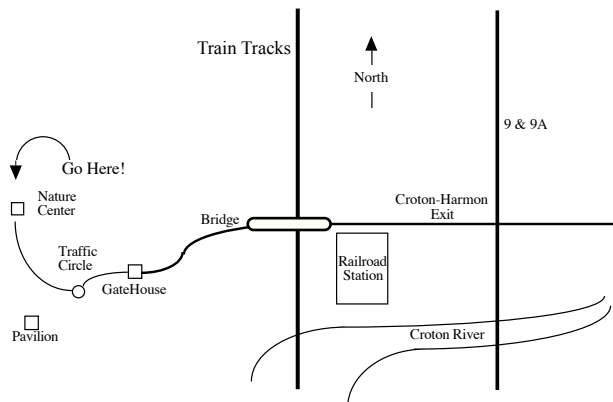
## Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and showing of *March of the Penguins*



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



**Friday, June 17, 2016**

**6:30pm**

**Croton Point Nature Center**