



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 3, March 2007

Riverlovers Doings

Our participation in the Eagle Weekend at Croton Point Nature Center was a huge success. We had lots of people there, both guests and Riverlovers, and we dispensed a lot of soup, bread and other goodies. Check out Cynthia's write-up below.

And looking ahead a little further, our March 9th Potluck will focus on preparations for the ShadFest on May 20th that will involve every one of us, and then some, for our big event of the year. Now's the time to say you'll be there!

The next Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse on March 10th will feature a double bill with satirist John Forster and the riotously funny trio, Modern Man. That's sure to be a memorable event, so get your tickets early. And check out the lineup for the rest of the Spring season—there are some fabulous entertainers coming to a venue near you. (That's White Plains, as if you didn't know.)

These evenings, which include an opening singalong starting at 6:45, really are lots of fun. Bring your crowd of friends, as we do, and join in the festivities. You really won't be disappointed!

As The Eagles Fly

by Cynthia Andersen

Sunday, February 11th was a gorgeous winter day. People, young and old, alone, in couples, or hauling their children, came out in droves to look up in the sky in order to watch the eagles making their way to our River. Our little Nature Center was buzzing from morning until sunset. Scott laid out a breakfast table of bagels "and" and gave a morning talk on the exhibits at the Nature Center.

In the meantime Riverlovers were setting up for the Soup and Bread luncheon. Terry was there early helping to make the kitchen sparkle and she made the Alaskan salmon appetizers. All three Andersen sisters brought their signature soups: Kari's cheese cheddar, Lisa's vegetarian chili and Kirsten's pea soup. (Now I know what the "P" stands for in PhD). Warren brought Bruni's fabulous chicken vegetable soup and Jan made a vegetable soup that was delicious.

I want to also thank MRS. GREEN'S NATURAL FOOD MARKET and ZEYTINIA for their generous donation of soups to Riverlovers. Daria baked two loaves of her sour dough crusty creations and Sandy made beautiful scrumptious breads as well.

As I watched the lovely families coming into the Nature Center before and after looking for eagles, I couldn't help thinking about all the chaos going on in the world. What if everyone put down their guns, their bombs, their hatreds and looked up into the sky to watch one of God's creations flying through the heavenly universe—gloriously free of prejudices, dogmas, and ideologies. Would anything change?

The reality is that for people all over the world the eagle is used as a national, organizational and/or religious symbol. The eagle has been used by many nations as a national symbol, depicting power, beauty and independence, i.e., the United States and Russia. The Jewish religion refers to eagles in the Torah and uses it as a metaphor for God, eagle lecterns are very common in Christian churches and cathedrals, and the eagle is used as a symbol to depict John the Apostle. Many Arabic states and organizations use eagles as symbols, e.g., the PLO. So the eagle does have universal appeal, and maybe if we all turn our eyes up to the sky and think about how we are all part of the Kingdom *ANIMALIA* we can learn to live together and soar like the eagle to the heights we want to reach.

This was my first eagle watch, but not my last. It was so inspirational, and I want to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the day with us. A few more thanks to Jan, Terry and Daria for the cleanup; for the lovely presence of Demetra, Sal and their family, for the reappearance of Jane and her new pup. To Terry D. for sharing his actual birth day with us. And to Scott for making the Nature Center such a warm welcoming venue. If I've left anyone out, let me know and I'll catch you in the next newsletter. Oh, and thanks for coming, Oma.

Quote Without Comment

"It is time for GE to step up to the plate and accept its responsibility to all New Yorkers to clean up the Hudson River. Instead of spending valuable time and resources on lawyers and further litigation, GE should focus on cleaning the Hudson River."

"Lowey and Hinchey [Hudson Valley Congressional Representatives] blast GE for failure to clean up Hudson River," Mid-Hudson News Network, July 19, 2006.

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

Our Nuclear Neighbor

Is Indian Point worth the risk? A Brookhaven National Lab study ten years ago revealed that a disaster from a spent fuel pool could cause, depending on severity, from 1500 to as many as 143,000 cancer deaths and \$800 million to as much as \$566 billion in damage. Land around the plant could be rendered uninhabitable over a radius of a mile up to 2790 square miles.

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission study estimated that a meltdown at Indian Point Unit 2 would cause 46,000 deaths and 141,000 injuries in the near term. A meltdown at Unit 3 would result in 50,000 deaths and 167,000 injuries.

The NRC report shows a \$500 billion property damage risk from Unit 2, and a \$574 billion risk from Unit 3. Homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses caused directly or indirectly by nuclear hazards, either accidental or from terrorism.

A significant radioactive release would contaminate the surrounding area for thousands of years, and contaminate the reservoirs and aquifers that supply New York City and Westchester with drinking water. Farmland and food would be affected, as well as animal life. The notorious Chernobyl accident, which rendered about 100 square miles permanently uninhabitable, released to the environment only a fraction of the radioactive material stored at Indian Point.

Let's leave the terrorism, evacuation and safety breach issues for another time, and look at how Congresswoman Nita Lowey perceives the risk of Indian Point. She issued a press release several years ago that said, "I have concluded that the continued operation of the Indian Point nuclear power plants presents an unacceptable risk to the safety and security of New York's metropolitan area. I am calling for the orderly decommissioning of the plant, for the safe storage of spent fuel and radioactive material at its site and for the enhanced effort to explore alternative sources of energy for our region."

Given all that, and more, it's up to you to decide—is Indian Point really worth the risk?

Art History Series:

The Hudson River School Of Painting I

by Cynthia Andersen

The Hudson River School of Painting unofficially began in the summer of 1825 when the reputation of its founder, Thomas Cole, literally exploded on the scene. The discovery of Cole's paintings of Kaaterskill Cove and Falls and the surrounding area was made by John Trumbull, one of America's most famous painters of the post-Revolutionary War era. Trumbull, accompanied by his friends William Dunlap and engraver Asher B. Durand, was amazed by the three Cole paintings they stumbled upon in a little frame shop in Greenwich Village. Trumbull said about Cole, "He has accomplished what all my life I have tried to do." The three each paid \$25.00 for a painting and Durand, who would become the leader of the second generation of Hudson River School painters later said, "Cole's fame spread like fire." Americans had become tired of monumental history painting like Trumbull's *Declaration of Independence*, Gilbert Stuart's portraits of George Washington, as well as the

works of John Copley and Benjamin West; all of whom lived and worked in England.

For 19th century Americans there were no ruins or monuments of their civilization to draw upon for artistic purposes as there were in Europe. We began looking at the uniquely spectacular landscape wilderness that is America and this is what Cole's paintings captured. We wanted an art that would remind us of the glory of nature. Landscape painting became the national subject; the sign of American identity. We had gained our political independence from England, and now at last, through the Hudson River School of painting, we were claiming our cultural independence.

Thomas Cole was a 24 year old emigrant from Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, England, the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, about 200 miles northwest of London, when he returned to his Greenwich Village tiny, cramped studio from his first sketching trip to the Catskill Mountains. There he painted the brilliant landscapes discovered by Trumbull, including Lake with Dead Trees and The Falls of the Kaaterskill. Cole's family had migrated to Ohio when he was 18 years old because the Industrial Revolution that had begun in England had decimated his father's handicraft manufacturing business. Cole and his family struggled over the next several years; his father failed at various business endeavors while Cole pursued the path to becoming a self-made artist. Cole's family moved from Ohio to Pennsylvania and finally to New York City, which in 1825 was becoming a booming commercial area because the Erie Canal had just opened, linking the west with the eastern part of New York State.

Artists and writers then led the way to the Hudson River Valley and together forged the first self-consciously American vision and literary voice. The new American vision was grounded in the natural world as a source of spiritual renewal and as an expression of our national identity.

Cole was a prolific writer who recorded his impressions of his trips to the Catskills which he described as ". . . a varied country through which meanders the Catskill Creek, a beautiful stream, then at a pleasing distance, the mountains clothed in glorious trees, ever changing in color, light and shadow." Kaaterskill Falls is one of the great scenic wonders of the Northeast in Greene County on the eastern range of the Catskills. The two-tiered cascade falls 260 feet into the Catskill Cove, joining the Catskill Creek about 12 miles west of the town of Catskill, and eventually it flows into the Hudson River. Cole's 1826 rendition of Kaaterskill Falls (Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, Connecticut) is a dark and dramatic scene which includes a stormy sky and turbulent spray from the falls. Cole uses the outer cavern walls as a framing element. An American Indian stands on a precipice in the center middle ground, surveying the wild beauty before him. The Indian symbolizes the nation's distant past.

Cole was never satisfied being a "mere leaf painter", as he called it, and Part II of this series will continue to discuss Cole's paintings in terms of the historical, literary, moral and religious sub-texts he began to impart in his works. We will also look at his artistic influences, painting techniques and artistic vocabulary. Stay tuned!



What's Happening When

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

Mar 2, Fri, 1:30-5pm, **Indian Point Safe Energy Roundtable & Technical Briefing**, sponsored by Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, Clearwater, Pace Academy for the Environment. At Willcox Gym, Pace Pleasantville Campus, Rte 117 at Taconic Parkway. Info: www.clearwater.org.

Mar 2, Fri, 6:30-8:30pm, **Indian Point Safe Energy Town Hall Meeting**, panel discussion & Q&A. Sponsored by Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, Clearwater, Pace Academy for the Environment. At Willcox Gym, Pace Pleasantville Campus, Rte 117 at Taconic Parkway. Info: www.clearwater.org.

Mar 9, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Kick off our planning and arrangements for the ShadFest in May, our biggest event of the year. We need you all!

Mar 10, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents John Forster & Modern Man** at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

Mar 17, Sat, 8pm, **Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill presents The Preservation Hall Jazz Band**. Tickets \$30 & \$35. Info: 877-840-0457 or www.paramountcenter.org.

Mar 23, Fri, 8pm, **Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill presents Mary Chapin Carpenter**. Tickets \$40 & \$45. Info: 877-840-0457 or www.paramountcenter.org.

Mar 24, Sat, 8pm, **MainStage Coffee House Foundation presents Mary Gauthier & Eliza Gilkyson** at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$30. Info: 800-595-4849 or www.themainstage.org.

Global Warming Myths And Facts—I

MYTH: The science of global warming is too uncertain to act on.

FACT: There is no debate among scientists about the basic facts of global warming.

The most respected scientific bodies have stated unequivocally that global warming is occurring, and people are causing it by burning fossil fuels (like coal, oil and natural gas) and cutting down forests. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences, which in 2005 the White House called "the gold standard of objective scientific assessment," issued a joint statement with 10 other National Academies of Science saying "the scientific understanding of climate change is

now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action. It is vital that all nations identify cost-effective steps that they can take now, to contribute to substantial and long-term reduction in net global greenhouse gas emissions." The only global warming debate in the science community is about how much and how fast warming will continue as a result of heat-trapping emissions. Scientists have given us a clear warning, and we have more than enough facts about causes and fixes to implement solutions right now.

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

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <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:	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

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

March Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Bill Flank

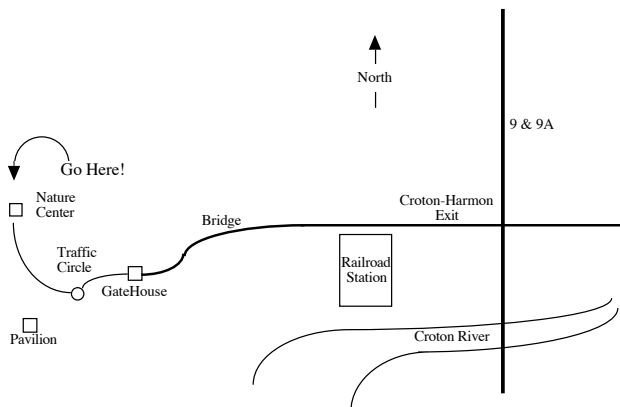
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and Annual ShadFest Planning



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, March 9, 2007

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center