



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 21, Number 3, March 2008

Riverlovers Doings

People liked the idea of having a river study group in which individuals will research an aspect of the river and present it to the membership at a meeting. Cynthia will kick this off on March 14th with a presentation "Exactly What is an Estuary?" On April 11th Bill will talk about recycling, including what those numbers mean in the triangles on all the plastic bottles, and what happens to the recycled plastics. Robin has also offered to do a future presentation.

We're still planning to arrange tours of the county incinerator plant at Charles Point and the Millwood water treatment plant, and we can help with winter boat maintenance of the Clearwater. We're also getting a date for a seining session at Mothers Lap. These things require planning and a fair amount of participation by members, so stay tuned for more details and check the Riverlovers website at www.riverlovers.org.

We've been talking at recent Potlucks about the Shad-Fest, which will be on May 18 this year. It is not too early to start soliciting vendors, so we will soon place an ad in the Pennysaver. Robin explained the problems with getting shad, including the moratorium on large nets at the mouth of the river. We will try our best to get shad even if only in a smaller amount. If it is not possible, we will carefully choose another fish. So, reserve that date: MAY 18 for the Riverlovers Nineteenth Annual SHADFEST!! And call Robin to let her know what you'll be doing to help make our biggest event of the year a success.

Walkabout Coffeehouse Notes

On March 8th John McCutcheon will be returning for another great night of music and song. John does everything, and does it well, from poignant songs and social commentary to virtuoso performances with the hammered dulcimer.

In April the Coffeehouse will welcome The Ebony Hillbillies, a New York-based string band performing a rich cultural legacy of old and new music in grassroots style.

Join in the informal Teachabouts at 6:45pm, prior to the 7:30pm concerts, at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains. There's plenty of free parking, and lots of fun. You and your friends can enjoy yourselves and support Clearwater at the same time. Come on out!

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

Is Indian Point Passé?

Given the old age of Indian Point's reactors and the particularly poor performance record of IP Unit Two, it is not certain that Indian Point would be able to reliably provide electricity to the grid even if its license were extended. As noted in an earlier article, Indian Point Unit Two was shut down for almost a full year not long ago, and produced no power during the peak summer season. In that event, a steam generator tube ruptured and a radioactive release occurred.

Even more to the point (pun intended), both Indian Point units suffered simultaneous unplanned outages in 2003 with no loss of available power in Westchester or New York City. A number of new large generating plants have state approval and are under construction, in addition to ones that have recently come on line. Entergy itself has filed a proposal with the Public Service Commission to construct a 330 megawatt power plant fueled with natural gas at the Indian Point site.

It should be obvious that energy conservation and efficiency measures would provide a more reliable and less expensive means of energy management. California has demonstrated that this can reduce peak demand by about 15% with minimal effort. A recent study has shown that similar results can be achieved in New York, making Indian Point quite superfluous.

Even without conservation measures, we would not see a significant increase in our bills. Entergy's own consultants estimate that a 5 to 8% increase in annual retail energy bills would result if Indian Point were closed. Their demand estimate was on the high side of similar estimates, and their estimate of available sources was on the low side. Furthermore, Entergy didn't take into account the moderating effect on prices of energy conservation and efficiency measures.

Last but not least is the realization that, if Indian Point has an operational accident or suffers an attack that results in a large-scale release of radioactivity, all the energy predictions and economic forecasts would become meaningless. Even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recognized, at a previous review, that "no one can guarantee that any nuclear plant will not have a radiation release."

It is inescapable that, while we can replace the power, we could never replace the people or the property or the places that would be forever lost. That's a price no prudent person would ever want to pay. This ticking time bomb has got to be defused.

Art History Series

The Hudson River School Of Painting IV

The Second Generation Of Hudson River School Painters: Asher B. Durand—Part I

by Cynthia Andersen

The purpose of this article is to continue my series on the Hudson River School of Painting. We will look at Asher B. Durand (1796—1886) and his work as it reflects the mythos of the Hudson River School within historical, literary, philosophical and artistic parameters.

Historically, Durand's work represents a new trend in the development of the Hudson River School which began in 1825. Philosophically, Durand's work presents us with a new aesthetic; God present in nature and the artist as a tool of nature. Artistically, Durand departed from Thomas Cole (1801—1848), the father of the Hudson River School of painting, in composition, color, linear and aerial perspective as well as artistic vocabulary.

John Trumbull was the link between Thomas Cole and Asher Durand. Trumbull had commissioned Durand to engrave his *Declaration of Independence* when Durand was twenty four years old. Durand, who was born in New Jersey in 1796, learned engraving at home and was later apprenticed to an engraver in New York. Engraving is a process in which a wedge-shaped metal tool; a burin, is used to gouge clear, sharp furrows in a metal plate. Various types of lines can be employed to produce texture, tonality and shading in order to create three-dimensionality. After three years Durand completed the work and it was so well received, it made him famous. He was acknowledged as the best engraver in the country. Durand developed an iconography of decorative vignettes that still flourishes on stock certificates.

Before turning to landscape painting, Durand painted genre scenes and portraits. In the summer of 1837, after Durand went on a sketching trip to Schroon Lake in the Adirondacks with Cole, he began to concentrate on landscape painting. One of his first paintings, however, was *Portrait of Cole*, 1837 [Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts]. Other portraits Durand painted in the 1830's were James Madison, John Quincy Adams, and Luman Reed, the wealthy patron of Cole, Durand and other Hudson River school painters. Soon, however, Durand was hiking to the Catskill and White Mountains with other artists interested in the contemplation of nature and convinced, like Cole, that natural wonders could enhance the spiritual awareness of man and lead to a greater communion between God and the viewer. Asher Durand, however, brought a new aesthetic to the Hudson River School: a belief that God was already present in nature and needed no help from man/artist. Unlike Cole, whose work seems to rely more on the style of Salvator Rosa (1615—1673) with its emphasis on a wild and savage landscape; we see in Durand a more bucolic view based on the style of Claude Lorrain (1600—1682), often referred to as Claudian; meaning beautiful and picturesque. Durand began to portray the countryside less complexly; he believed the artist should look for the beauty that was already present in nature and try to perfect that reality in his work. He became known as a portraitist of trees. A patron would specify the

species he wanted such as beech, basswood, oak, birch and hemlock. Durand's *oeuvre* includes *The Beeches*, 1845 [The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City], *The Old Oak*, 1844 [New York Historical Society, New York City], *The Fallen Monarch, Landscape with Birches*, 1855 [Museum of Fine Arts Data Base Collection, Boston], and *The Trysting Tree*, 1860 [Butler Institute of American Art].

Durand believed the artist should be humble before nature; he was a tool of nature. In *The Beeches* Durand frames the work in the picturesque style of Claude. The mood, rather than sublime (the wild and frightening) as in Cole, is tranquil. The shepherd and his flock are safely enclosed as they walk toward the welcoming horizon that seems as if it is a heavenly paradise. Durand's light is central to the work; it permeates the atmosphere and creates its unique color. Durand's use of light in *The Beeches* is both realistic and romantic. Durand believed that sunlight enhanced a view both spiritually and stylistically, because it suggested presence of God. Looking at Durand's painting, we feel that we are not in a particular geographical area, but more a particular moment at the end of the day; a fleeting moment, but one that Durand arrests and makes timeless. Durand wrote that a painting "will be as great as it declares the glory of God...not the works of man."

(This Space Reserved For Jan Ravase)

by Jan Ravase

First, I would like to thank Cynthia for interviewing me for the December *Currents*. She did such a good job that I was tempted to give up my new-found interviewer position.

Articles will appear now and again, as deadlines aren't one of my things. Some attempt will be made to refer to an interview from the 90's. (Naturally, I am most interested in what has happened to you in the past ten years!) If you can produce the old copy, we can use it as a jumping-off point.

The first guest has already been spoken for—by popular demand—a mother figure. But if you are waiting with baited breath to be #2, call me at 845-831-3010. The process takes place on unlimited calling minutes (yours) or face-to-face, when I venture forth from Dutchess County at a time, date and mutually agreeable location. Look for a picture and be prepared to send it to the editors via e-mail. (If you're not e-mail-literate, mail a photo to the editors to be scanned.)

Enough with the instructions. So what have I been up to? I was hoping to translate Leesa Thompson's recent Cuba visit, but then Fidel stepped down. I'm looking for other changes too. Talk to you soon

(Jan notes that although she is not technology-wise, she is an on-the-road Victorian!)



Reporter Jan and her friend Pitch



What's Happening When

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

March 8, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents John McCutcheon.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, children 5-12 \$10, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

March 14, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on second Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Riverlovers Study Group presents **"What is an Estuary?"** Check our website for latest info, at www.riverlovers.org.

March 28, Fri, 7:30pm, **Woody Guthrie Sailors' Winter Seminar Series: The Living River-Plants and Animals of Newburgh Bay,** with Chris Bowser of NYDEC's Rivers & Estuaries Program. Open to the public. At Beacon Sloop Club, Beacon Waterfront.

April 11, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the second Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Riverlovers Study Group presents **"Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Plastics Recycling."** Check our website for the latest info, at www.riverlovers.org.

April 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents The Ebony Hillbillies.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets \$17.50, \$20 at door, children 5-12 \$10, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or 914-242-0374.

Quote Without Comment

"For most Americans, fear of insects is a social aversion. It's not rational. People in other societies were introduced to bugs at an early age. It's just not the way we grew up.

"But how dirty are they? As it turns out, not very. While insects carry an abundance of microbial flora, they do not regularly harbor human pathogens like salmonella and E. coli. Put another way, insects don't seem any more prone to disease than cows, pigs, chickens or fish, all of which need to be raised and cooked properly. It can also be argued that these insects boost the nutritional content of what we already eat. Bugs compare favorably to traditional livestock in available protein and fatty acid, and, for some vitamins and minerals, they beat them by a wide margin.

"Provocative as that sounds, insects do meet the test of environmental sustainability: they create far more edible protein per pound of feed than cattle. Moreover, given world consumption trajectories, scientists warn that a complete collapse of global fish stocks is possible in the next 40 years. We might want to hedge our bets. Perhaps then it's

no surprise that the concept of bugs as food is getting serious consideration from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.. It will soon stage a workshop called "Forest Insects as Food: Humans Bite Back" in Thailand.

"Among the questions to be addressed: Why douse fields with pesticides if the bugs we kill are more nutritious than the crops they eat?"

Taken from an article in the New York Times Magazine by Sam Nejame

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 2008 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:	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.

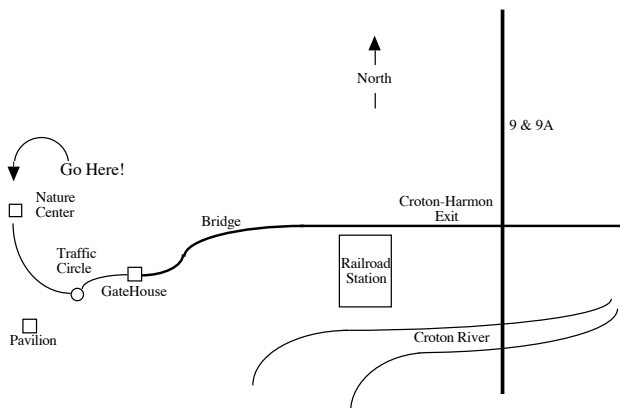
Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting

March Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Sam Nejame, Jan Ravase

March Potluck Riverlovers Study Group Presents "What is an Estuary?"



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



Friday, March 14, 2008
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center