



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 23, Number 3, March 2010

Message From The President

The screening of “Who Killed the Electric Car” on Jan. 15 was a great success, with a large group attending. There was great audience participation, with many groans and gasps as the “bad” guys appeared on screen, giving their questionable explanations. Many reasons were given, such as the previous administration’s S.U.V. tax credit.

The statement was made that there could be a trillion barrels of oil in the earth at a possible price of \$100 per barrel, and (!) the money had to be made sooner, not later. General Motors didn’t sell the EV-1, but leased the car. When the leases were expiring, G.M. wouldn’t renew them or let the drivers purchase the car. Then in a final indignity, they CRUSHED the cars. G.M. also installed old design lead-acid batteries, instead of efficient nickel-cadmium or lithium batteries, to give cars a much lower range.

The movie ends on a happy note that there are other electric cars coming out, such as the Tesla. Also, some mechanical shops are converting gas engine cars to electric motor drive with no oil, air filters and engine oil to change. Finally hybrid cars are appearing, such as the Prius and others, and plug-in hybrids are on the horizon.

For the March 19 meeting we would like to show “Food, Inc.” This movie “lifts the veil on our nation’s food industry, exposing how our nation’s food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers, and our environment. Food, Inc. reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what we eat, how it’s produced and who we have become as a nation” (quoted from the movie).

In April or maybe later, we will show “An Inconvenient Truth” by Nobel Peace prize winner Al Gore. It’s even more relevant now than before.

Our ShadFest planned for May 2010 will not be held due to financial pressures from Westchester County. Robin Fox explains why, elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to explore possibly moving the ShadFest to Peekskill Riverfront Green or somewhere in the Town of Cortlandt. If it’s not happening this year, hopefully next year we will be back, with a ShadFest at one of these three locations.

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

Announcing Our Regrets

by Robin Fox

It is with deep regret we must announce that there will be NO RIVERLOVERS SHADFEST this coming May 16 at Croton Point Park.

Westchester County has withdrawn its financial support, which leaves us no choice but to cancel our festival. It would have been our 20th!

Thank you all for the many years of ShadFest devotion, involvement, and work. Our Riverlovers community can be very proud of our efforts—our celebration of Spring—the Hudson River—and, of course, Shad.

We hope this will be only a hiatus, and that we will be back celebrating and singing for our River in years to come.

Walkabout Coffeehouse Coming Up

Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents its sixth concert in this, the 22nd season of Coffeehouse evenings. They showcase fabulous talent and have earned a loyal audience. That should include you and your friends. We hope it does.

Once again you’ll find a Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse flyer with your *Riverlovers Currents*. Please post it and note that, to recycle paper, we’ve printed the flier double-sided. Be sure the March side is the readable side.

The March 13th concert features the very entertaining Ronny Cox, with a program of “songs, stories and out-and-out lies.” Moviegoers will remember his roles in “Deliverance” and “Star Trek” among others.

Get tickets at www.BrownPaperTickets.com by credit card, or for more information, check the website at www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or call 914-242-0374. Bring your friends and celebrate the 22nd season in style!

Help Monitor Fish In The Hudson

The Fisheries Unit of the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program has a volunteer-based river herring monitoring program for Hudson River tributaries, and the program will continue this year. They are recruiting local groups and watershed organizations to volunteer this season. The Hudson River Estuary is nearly 155 miles long—that’s a lot of ground to cover, and volunteer support is vital!

River herring are important, both ecologically and commercially. Unfortunately, herring stocks are declining all along the East coast. The goal is to monitor tributaries

Continued on page 3

Everyone Should Write This Letter

Dear County Executive Astorino:

The Hudson River is one of the most important economic engines for Westchester. When people come to any of the many festivals that are held up and down the river, they spend money with local business people. Festivals give our cash-strapped non-profit organizations a chance to reach out to the public, recruit new members and provide educational materials on many different topics.

The recent successful EagleFest is a case in point. Their heated tent was filled to overflowing with some of the biggest and best known local groups and some not so well-known. The crowd had a ball going from table to table learning about different things and talking with the dedicated people on the other side of the tables. The festival provided an opportunity for a small businessman to sell hot dogs and hamburgers to a hungry crowd and it gave a small cafe owner an opportunity to provide coffee and dessert to cold eagle watchers down on the boat landing. Food for volunteers was donated by local restaurants and members of the Riverlovers Sloop Club. While the food was free to volunteers, it was purchased for preparation within our local community. Buses were rented and several drivers spent the day ferrying people between different festival sites. They seemed grateful for the work. I mention this because any event of this kind has a ripple effect that is economically beneficial to the local community.

County naturalists took families on bird walks and were knowledgeable and engaging about the flora and fauna. The children were delighted and the adults experienced a very positive interaction with county employees. This was a rare experience for most of them, since county services frequently operate in the background unnoticed. They happily experienced their tax dollars at work paying the salaries of these expert professionals.

It is the same, or more so, for the ShadFest that has been scheduled at Croton Point Park for the last 19 years. People come to sample the shad and connect with an important part of the history of the Hudson Valley. They stay to spend money with local vendors, listen to local musicians and perhaps hire them for a future gig. They get the latest news from the nonprofits who are eager to reach out to the public with information about their programs and educational efforts. They bring their kids, who get to spend a day on the River away from video games and perhaps grow up thinking more about our rivers and environment because of their enjoyment of Croton Point Park. People come up from New York City and see our community as a desirable place to purchase a home and bring up a family because of events like this.

River Festivals are a time-honored tradition in the Hudson River Valley. While money is tight all over, this is not the place to make a wholesale cut. Surely there is a way to allow the ShadFest to continue to bring economic benefit and enjoyment to residents of Westchester. Continuing the ShadFest is a way to reach out to a large part of your constituency and prove that you can save money while continuing a vital local tradition.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Elie, Westchester Resident

And Thanks For Writing That

Good morning Marilyn,

Thanks so much for sending along your very good letter to the County Executive. I plan to write a letter to our local paper a bit later in the spring. I hope that people will write replies to both the local paper and the county.

Yes, the EagleFest was successful. Several things made it possible without the county's monetary involvement, which was their reason for withdrawing support from ShadFest. It is too late for anything to be done about ShadFest for this year. The county estimated our cost for the ShadFest at \$6,010.00 for the day. We have never before been charged in all the years we'd been at Croton Point Park.

Firstly, because EagleFest was held before "park season," there was no entry fee charged to motorists, and as far as I could tell, the parking assistants were Teatown volunteers, not county people.

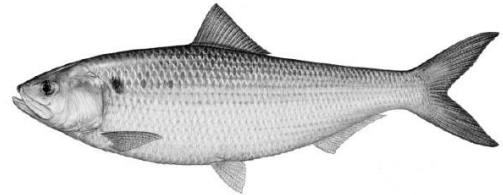
Secondly, Teatown spent a bloody fortune (\$40,000.00 alone for the tent, heaters, fans, lighting, etc.) on the event.

I have done a lot of background work making contact with our suppliers and those who have become our "ShadFest community," letting them know of the cancellation, thanking them, asking them to keep the ShadFest in their books, because we hope to be back, and encouraging them to contact the county. For now, that's all I am doing.

Again, thanks so much for your good letter and your faith in our Riverlovers effort. It means a lot to all of us.

Yours,

Robin



Feedback

Dear Gunnar and to all of the Riverlovers and Ferry Sloops volunteers,

On behalf of Teatown Lake Reservation, we extend our deepest appreciation to you for helping to make the 6th Annual Hudson River EagleFest a great celebration and success. Thank you so much for the wonderful, delicious, and HOT soup with bread. It was truly appreciated by us all.

The event was a wonderful collaboration of many organizations and people, all of whom share a passion to honor the eagle's winter return to the Hudson River Valley. We estimate that the Croton Point Park Eagle Headquarters was attended by over 2,500 very enthusiastic people who were thrilled to be part of the celebration and participate in the educational programs.

Your involvement and important contribution helped make the day a very special one and the event is truly enriched when we work with many of the environmental organizations in our region.

Thank you again for your participation, and we look forward to working with you again for the 2011 Hudson River EagleFest.

Best regards,

Lisa Fine and Phyllis Bock

Organizers, Hudson River EagleFest



What's Happening When

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

March 2, Tues, 6:30pm, **Ferry Sloops Meeting & Potluck**, at Croton Point Nature Center. Our sister organization and sailing group shares a home, a mission and some activities with us. Info: www.ferrysloop.org.

March 12, Fri, 7pm, **Environmental Lecture Series, "The Landscape that Defines America" with Harvey Flad**. At the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse.

March 13, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Ronny Cox**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance (via www.BrownPaperTickets.com), or \$20 at door. \$15 at door with student ID, \$10 children 6-12, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

March 19, Friday, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck**, showing the "Food, Inc." movie. Info www.Riverlovers.org.

March 20, Sat, 7pm, **Beczak Environmental Education Center and Tribes Hill present Joe Iadanza & His Beautiful Band**. CD Release Party, free beer from Captain Lawrence Brewing Co. Tickets \$10. Fresh local music, at Beczak Center, 35 Alexander St, Yonkers. Info: urban.h2o.org, 914-377-1900, x13.

March 20, Sat, 7pm, **4th Annual Woody Guthrie Benefit Dinner & 32nd Anniversary Party**, at River Terrace Restaurant, 2 Beekman St, Beacon. Live music, door prizes. Reservation deadline March 15, \$50 per person. Info: Tom LaBarr, 845-831-4267.

March 23, Tues, 7-9pm, **Ferry Sloops Informational Meeting**. At Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton.

Continued from page 1

along the Hudson River to see where river herring spawning runs exist. This program is not designed to provide exact numbers of herring, but by monitoring streams in the upper, mid-, and lower sections of the Hudson River we will learn more about the timing and location of the runs.

The program is hoping to recruit at least 10 volunteers per stream to monitor from April 1st through May 31st. Each citizen scientist would go out at least twice a week for 15 minutes to record observations about the run.

A summary of 2009 monitoring results and a map of tributaries to be monitored are available. For information, email r3hermon@gw.dec.state.ny.us or call 845-256-3827.

On Thursday, March 25, 7-9 pm and Saturday, March 27, 11am-1 pm, the NYSDEC Volunteer River Herring Monitoring Training will be presented. The Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program invites volunteers to learn how to collect data on River Herring spawning runs on tributaries throughout the region.

Training for Pocantico River and Sprout Brook take place at the Croton Free Library on March 25. Training for Fishkill and Wappingers Creek will be held at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum pavilion on March 27. For reservations and information contact r3hermon@gw.dec.state.ny.us, call (845) 256-3827, or visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/41545.html>.

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



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

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

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: Gunnar Andersen, Marilyn Elie, Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

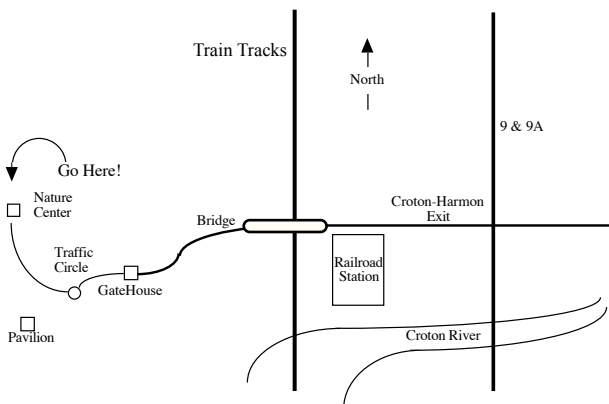
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and "Food, Inc." movie



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, March 19, 2010
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center