



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 26, Number 3, March 2013

Message From The President

Wow! We got a foot of snow here in upper Westchester County, but we were lucky. Look at Suffolk County, with its 30 inches of snow.

The Teatown EagleFest was postponed from Saturday to Sunday, February 10th due to the snow, but what a wonderful festival it was, with the newly cleared paths and roads. With the abundant snow, it was a winter wonderland. There were large crowds going to eagle-watch walks, attending shows in the theater, and visiting the volunteer and vendor tables in the big tent.

At the Riverlovers outreach table I again showed the PBS program "An American Eagle" on my laptop. This was a huge draw to our outreach table, with adults and children stopping by to watch the program, and then learning about the Riverlovers and our various activities. I'm happy to say we gave away all the Riverlovers Currents for February 2013. We also told people to look up Riverlovers' website.

For the February meeting we screened PBS Frontline's "Climate of Doubt". The video showed that four years ago, worries about climate change were hot. But now public opinion has cooled. Various organizations, paid with soft money, have denied climate change and promoted skepticism of scientific evidence that human activity is imperiling the planet. *WE HAVE TO PUT THE WORD OUT THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS A REAL PROBLEM.*

For the March 15th Potluck we will screen "Koyaansqatsi" (Life Out Of Balance, from the Hopi language). "Unique...profound...mesmerizing and thought provoking. Uniting breathtaking imagery with a haunting evocative award-winning score" (from the dvd jacket).

Looking ahead to April, Riverlovers will again participate in Westchester County Earth Day at Kensico Dam Plaza. For the April 19th Potluck we will screen a PBS special, "America Revealed, Electric Nation" We take electricity for granted, but how is it generated and how does our vast but aging grid get it to every house, office, and factory in the nation?

For a special treat we will have an opportunity to tour Wildflower Island at the Teatown Reservation, led by our own Daria Gregg on Sunday, April 28th at 12 noon. The suggested donation will be \$10. Due to limited space on the tour (8 people) if you wish to reserve a spot, send a check made out to Riverlovers to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

In May I would like to lead Riverlovers on a walk near where I live, at the Sylvan Lake Park Preserve off of Lexington Avenue near Route 202. Does Sunday, May 5th sound good? On Saturday, June 8th the Friends of the Great Swamp will have a canoe trip from the Patterson Environmental Park. This is a wonderful trip on the slowly flowing river that goes on for many miles. More on these later.

Finally, I plan to reserve a sail for Riverlovers' most popular activity, the annual Sloop Clearwater sail. Let me know what day of the week and time of the month is best.

Thanks To EagleFest Helpers & Donors

Riverlovers owe a big "thank you" to soup and bread donors *Umami Café, Shoprite, Zeytinia,* and *Mrs. Green's* for their generous contributions of food for the EagleFest volunteers.

We also appreciate cooking, baking and serving help from Hale, Gerhard, Bill, Sandy, and Sarah Simon, all of which was superbly coordinated by Gunnar Andersen.

Helping out from Ferry Sloops were Chris Grieco, Lisa Amerger and Lolly Yacker Winderbaum, while Riverlovers helpers included Louise Leeds, Kirstsen Andersen, Lisa Tomesch and Kari Rell.

At the Riverlovers outreach table in the big tent, we need to say thanks to Warren Lindholm, Dick Manley and Cynthia Andersen for helping out with the big crowd who certainly enjoyed what we presented.

It was a great team effort overall, and we all contributed to a successful event despite the snow. Teatown again put together an exciting EagleFest program, and it really attracted a lot of public attention and support. It's a wonderful tradition now!

Walkabout Coffeehouse News

The February Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse with Garnet Rogers had to be canceled due to the snow storm. Fortunately, we've been able to reschedule Garnet for a Coffeehouse evening on Saturday, December 14, 2013. Don't miss his night, he's great!

Now, March is on the way. There are only three more Coffeehouse evenings to this season. On Saturday, March 9th one of the Coffeehouse's most popular performers—Vance Gilbert—will take our stage. Vance is a consummate musician, a ferociously funny man and he has a wonderful voice too! Mark March 9th on your calendar, buy your ticket, and post the enclosed flier somewhere with a lot of traffic. (Please don't forget to remove it after 3/9!)

Historic Environmental Justice Hearing

Clearwater made history late last year when testimony for its Environmental Justice contention was formally presented in front of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety Licensing Board at the Indian Point relicensing hearings. In a precedent-setting first for the nation, Clearwater's contention was accepted for formal argument in a relicensing hearing.

Clearwater asserted that neither Entergy's Environmental Report nor the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff analyzed the disproportionate impact that a nuclear release at Indian Point would have on environmental justice for low income, minority, disabled and infirm populations. These documents also do not adequately discuss any mitigation steps that would limit exposure for these at-risk groups.

At the hearing before the Licensing Board panel of judges, the NRC staff acknowledged that they did not take into account the potential disparate impacts on the elderly, disabled, mobility-impaired and prison populations in the event of a radiological release in their environmental impact statement.

In addition, the NRC did not do an analysis of disproportionate impacts of a severe accident, because they viewed the risk of accident as small and outside their scope.

Armed with four volumes of pre-filed testimony, nine Clearwater witnesses presented their case. They included Dr. Michael Edelstein, an environmental psychologist and professor at Ramapo College; Anthony Papa, a former inmate who, under the Rockefeller drug laws, served 12 years of a 15-to-life sentence in Sing Sing prison; Dr. Erik A. Larsen, Director of Emergency Medicine at White Plains Hospital; Dr. Andrew Kanter; Dolores Guardado, a Peekskill resident and native Spanish speaker; Aaron Mair, an expert on environmental justice; John Simms, a resident of an assisted living community in Cortlandt; Stephen Filler, an attorney and Clearwater Board member actively involved in the proceedings; and Manna Jo Greene, Clearwater's Environmental Director.

While this was a major step forward, the lengthy license renewal process will involve further testimony and legal arguments over the next several years before a determination will be made. In addition to environmental justice, a recent legal decision now requires the NRC to consider the nuclear waste disposal issue that had previously been exempt from consideration. These steps give us hope that good sense will prevail, and that Indian Point can finally be shut down to avoid the potential of a major disaster and its consequences.

(Thanks to the Beacon Sloop Club's Broadside for some of the above material.)

Hudson River PCB Forum Report

This event was held on January 16, 2013 and was sponsored by Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Riverkeeper, The Natural Resources Defense Council and Scenic Hudson. It was hosted by Marist College and gave the public and the media a significant opportunity to hear, from the governmental agencies responsible for monitoring and assessment, about the progress being made in this huge and historic clean-up.

The Superfund site is near the Hudson Falls and Fort Edwards locations where General Electric capacitor manufacturing operations discharged over 1.3 million pounds of PCBs into the Hudson River between 1947 and 1977. Remediation—primarily dredging—started in 2009 and will continue to about 2015.

The progress of the dredging project through the 2012 season was presented by EPA's field director, who noted that with improvements in the dredging techniques, the project is slightly ahead of target and has already removed more than 1.3 million cubic yards of sediment.

The New York DEC representative described the status of efforts to contain the sources of PCB contamination within the GE plant sites. While significant releases into the river continued after GE was forced to end manufacturing operations, due to contamination of soil and bedrock at the sites, recent collection and control measures have finally resulted in very low levels being found upstream of the dredging sites.

The State Health Department provided an update in Hudson River fish advisories. Fish consumption is the major route of human exposure to PCB contamination, and there is currently a "do not eat" health advisory for children to age 15 and women of child-bearing age for the entire river from the Superfund site on down.

Presentations were also made by the contracted independent advisor to the project, who discussed his role as well as describing some new research on remediation techniques and on the impact of PCBs on learning disabilities and fertility. In addition, the U.S. Interior Department representative explained how the Natural Resource Trustees are assessing the impact of PCB contamination and their role in collecting damages to be used for remediation purposes, including those involving loss of shipping in the Champlain canal due to dredging restrictions arising from PCB contamination.

It is evident that the best way to assure the ultimate success of this long-drawn-out process is to keep all parties fully informed and to maintain public focus on getting the entire project fully completed. It was a welcome progress report, but the job's not finished yet.

(Adapted from Alan Thomas's February article in the Beacon Sloop Club's Broadside)

Feedback

To the Editor:

I am sickened by the endless, tiresome editorial fuss and sympathy those crippled cruise ship passengers are getting. It strikes me that the passengers on the Carnival Cruise Lines' "Triumph" who got stuck at sea for 5 days with little food, no running water, and no sanitation were given a price-less opportunity to experience life as it is lived day after day by millions in the slums of the countries the ship normally sailed comfortably past!

These "wretched of the sea" we were expected to commiserate with for the collapse of their luxury cruise were briefly and indignantly living the daily lives of the wretched of the earth, who can expect no rescue, and qualify for no refunds.

Robin Fox



What's Happening When

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

March 9, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Vance Gilbert.** Great entertainment and a real treat. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets (\$18) at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 or \$23 at door. Open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Sing with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at its informal Teachabout starting at 6:45 pm. Info: call 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

March 15, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center.** See a screening of "Koyaanisqatsi" (Life Out Of Balance, from the Hopi language). "It's an astonishing symphony of sound and image, a work of art" (from the DVD jacket). Share food & impressions. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

April 28, Sun, noon, **Riverlovers Tour of Wildflower Island at Teatown Reservation,** led by our own Daria Gregg. Suggested donation \$10. Due to limited space on tour (8 people) if you wish to reserve a spot, send a check made out to Riverlovers to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

Mother Earth Is Still Attractively Young

Let's reframe the otherwise unpalatable age of our Mother Earth in the Universe:
When we compress her age of 4.6 billion years into 46 years—one year for every hundred million,
To then appreciate that plants only emerged on her when she was almost forty,
Dinosaurs evolved to dominate her when she was in her early forties and then went extinct six months ago,
The mammals emerged less than eight months ago,
The hominid primates stood erect last week.
She was last wrapped with a thick ice-aged blanket this past weekend.
Our human ancestors wandered off and then began community agriculture five hours ago, and then one hour ago, respectively.
Only one minute has elapsed since the onset of the Industrial Revolution.
Can you think how cruelly we have violated her in the last minute of her precious life alone?

Alas,
Should she be hopeful of celebrating her centenarian birthday?!
Adapted from a short poem by Davood Rahni, Somers, NY

Jim Eyring, of Pace University's Environmental Center, exhibiting his trained falcon at Teatown's EagleFest on February 10, 2013.

Riverlovers provided soup and bread (to Jim, not to the falcon).

Photo by Anthony Donofrio.



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 2013 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, 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!



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.

Back issues of *Riverlovers Currents* are available at our web site, www.riverlovers.org

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

March Newsletter Contributors: Gunnar Andersen, Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm, Davood Rahni

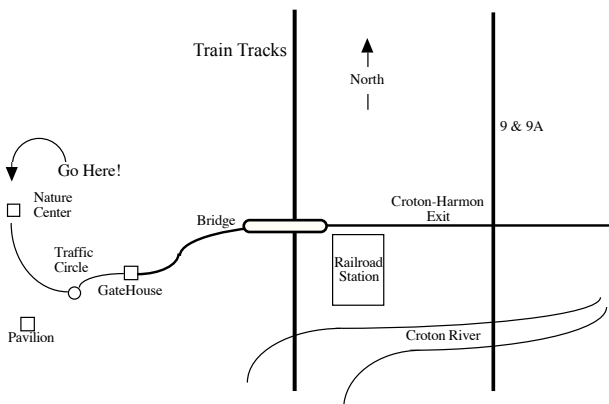
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of *Koyaanisqatsi*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, March 15, 2013
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center