



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 28, Number 3, March 2015

Message from the President

Riverlovers who attended the February Potluck at Croton Point were treated to a view of a rare triple conjunction of a very thin crescent Moon, a brightly lit Venus and Mars nearby. Beautiful.

I want to thank everyone for a successful EagleFest. Ferry Sloops and Riverlovers worked together and brought in and served delicious soups and fresh bread to more than 115 vendors and volunteers. A special thanks to Gunnar for coordinating the donated and home-made soups.

At the outreach table in the big tent we generated a great deal of interest in Riverlovers' future activities. We sold various educational toys and books and took in \$39. Six people signed up for future information on our meetings and activities.

For the February Potluck we screened *Car of the Future—Engineering for the Future*. The film brought up some disconcerting facts. To lure new car buyers, since 1985 cars have become 1000 lbs. heavier, and horse-power has almost doubled, while car mileage figures have stop rising, and since 1985 have actually been decreasing. Cars need to be much lighter and more efficient: Plug-in hybrids, lithium-ion batteries, which have 4 times the energy density of lead acid batteries, and cars made of carbon fiber. All, however, are expensive alternatives.

For the March meeting there is a conflict with the Nature Center scheduling. We will have the meeting on the **second** Friday of the month, which is March 13th at 6:30 pm. We will do an encore screening of *Earthdays* in anticipation of Earth Day activities in April. "Visually stunning, vastly entertaining and awe-inspiring, *Earthdays* looks back to the dawn and development of the modern environmental movement."

For the April meeting we will be back on the third Friday of the month, which is April 17th at 6:30 pm. We'll screen *Call of the Loon*. The detrimental effects of mercury on loons provide a broader understanding of the impact of mercury pollution, from coal-fired power plants, on wildlife and ecosystems in the Adirondacks and beyond.

This spring we will have many interesting activities. Daria Gregg suggested, as an alternative to Wildflower Island, that we attend the Frida Kahlo exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Then we can mosey down to the Native Plant Garden, and Daria can be a docent and show people around.

Riverkeeper will have its 4th annual Riversweep on Saturday, May 9th and we will again participate. Let us do our part to clean-up the Hudson River. Friends of the Great Swamp will again sponsor canoe trips, which some of us enjoyed last year.

Summer activities will include canoe trips to Constitution Marsh, and also to Iona Island Educational Center (free, with canoes supplied), and our annual sail on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

According to Daria's treasury report, Riverlovers increased \$600 in assets for 2014. Robin suggested we donate \$1000 to our mother ship Clearwater. Bill Flank will present the check at the winter Board meeting.

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

Walkabout Coffeehouse News

by Robin Fox

Saturday, March 14th will be a night of fine music at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse! We had to cancel the February Coffeehouse due to Old Man / Woman Winter (take your pick) and reschedule it for March 12, 2016, so it will be especially nice to gather this March for the music of Natalia Zukerman and Joe Jencks.

Natalia is an amazing musician, the daughter of classical musicians Eugenia and Pinchas Zukerman. She plays a variety of stringed instruments, and she is a painter and a jeweler. Joe Jencks, who is also part of the super trio "Brother Sun," is a musician of conscience and great humaneness.

Mark March 14th on your calendars, and come to the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse for a special evening of great acoustic music and good friendship. And, please post the flier you receive with your "Currents."

Advance tickets for individual concerts are on sale at www.BrownPaperTickets.com. To keep up to date, check out www.walkaboutclearwater.org, or better yet, use the url to sign up and join the e-mail list. Bring your friends! You'll enjoy the experience, and you'll help support Walkabout and Clearwater as well.

Pay your dues now—support our river!

\$25 Individual & \$35 Family

It cost \$9.30 a year to send you the *Riverlovers Currents*.

EagleFest Thank You's—A Great Event

Once again, Riverlovers joined with Ferry Sloops to provide lunch to the volunteers at the EagleFest. It was a savory success. We offered 11 different soups, including a very generous portion of squash soup from Umami Café, and Ecuadorian chicken soup from Elita's Deli. EagleFest volunteers enjoyed about 140 bowls of soup, which is 15 more than last year. We also served bread donated by ShopRite (along with the soup bowls), and corn bread from one of our members who rose to the occasion (thanks, Sandy).

THANKS TO THE MANY SOUPER RIVERLOVERS AND FERRY SLOOPS VOLUNTEERS FOR MAKING THIS HAPPEN.

Water Don'ts, Do's & Other Facts—III

by Moira Croghan

Here are some positive steps you can take around your home to lighten your footprint and reduce your impact. Keep these in mind when you prepare to do some work on your property.

Don't leave bare soil. Construction sites near the water or that disturb a significant amount of land are required to have a permit and use techniques to prevent soil from leaving the site when it is disturbed. To prevent erosion and run-off, hay bales and a ground-level black plastic silt fence should be installed to capture and retain loose soil. If you need to dig soil for any reason, reseed and replant bare ground as soon as possible to prevent sediment pollution of waterbodies.

Provide places for water to go. Land development and impermeable pavement increases stormwater run-off. This impacts the environment through downstream flooding, stream bank erosion and increased pollution. Fast-moving water is harmful water. It needs to be interrupted and slowed down with curves, texture changes and barriers. You can do things on your property that can hold onto stormwater like a sponge, giving it time to infiltrate into groundwater. Use compost and mulch to reduce erosion and help rain soak in.

Plant a rain garden to catch excess stormwater as it flows across your yard. Rain gardens are planted depressions that help collect rainwater run-off from impervious areas like roofs, driveways, walkways and compacted lawn areas, and lets it be slowly absorbed into the ground. This reduces run-off by diverting rain away from storm drains. Native plant species with long root systems are best for rain gardens, as they don't require watering.

Connect your roof downspouts to rain barrels and then use that water on your lawn and garden during dry spells. A rain barrel is a container that collects rainwater falling on a roof. Downspouts direct the water into the barrel during rain, and a hose at the bottom allows re-use of the water. Rain barrels are commercially available, and they are also easily made at home.

Try to use some type of porous pavement when it's time to replace a driveway or sidewalk. These materials allow stormwater to soak through and infiltrate into the ground. If you can't do a whole driveway of porous pavement, consider using it where the driveway meets the street.

Do your share for the environment. Together we can make a difference.

Does Nuclear Power Have A Role?

To most people, the outlook for nuclear power wouldn't seem bright. The Fukushima disaster in Japan three years ago increased public resistance to the industry. Cheap natural gas



is undercutting its competitiveness. Aging nuclear plants around the country, like Vermont Yankee in Vernon, Vermont, are shutting down.

But into this bleak environment come some startups with roots at MIT hoping to revive an industry that has struggled to make a comeback. Their technologies aim to solve issues that have bedeviled nuclear power for decades: safety, cost, and radioactive waste. One of them is designing a reactor that would be cheaper than coal and generate electricity from spent fuel rods—aka radioactive waste—piling up in the nation's nuclear plants. Another is developing a miniature atomic power plant that would be cheaper and cleaner than diesel generators used in remote locations.

Despite the political, economic, and technical challenges facing the industry, these companies are betting that the increasing urgency of climate change will mean a bigger role in the energy mix for emissions-free nuclear power. Many parts of the nation, including the Northeast, are experiencing serious effects in the form of violent storms, increased flooding, extended droughts and severe wildfires, and are desperate for alternatives.

One startup decided to focus on improving the safety of power plants by doing away with water. Fuel rods are normally submerged in water, and heat from the uranium fuel is converted into steam to turn a turbine and generate electricity. After a few years, however, the metal assemblies that hold the rods must be removed, even though only about 5 percent of the energy content has been used.

Instead of using water for cooling, a new design uses salt. Uranium is dissolved in a tank of molten salt, meaning there are no metal assemblies to damage. As a result, the fuel can stay in the core for decades until nearly all its energy is extracted. This technology could conceivably recover the remaining energy from the spent fuel rods stored in US nuclear plants—more than 70,000 metric tons. Since there is no separation of fissile material involved, weaponizing is not a feasible option.

Nuclear plants also rely on water to cool reactors in case there's a need for a rapid shutdown. In the Fukushima disaster, pumps that circulate water to the reactors lost power, leading to dangerous overheating and core meltdowns. With the molten salt approach, the plant could also cool itself without pumps. The salt and fuel in the core would simply drain to a containment tank, slowing the heat-producing nuclear reaction and freezing solid in the tank in a few hours.

Still unanswered, however, is the question of dealing with the radioactivity which is still present and will require isolation for extended periods of time. Also unaddressed are the questions of flooding and terrorist attacks, and their consequences. While not foolproof, these approaches may offer a temporary option while sustainability and efficiency get up to speed and take hold in our energy-hungry world.



What's Happening When

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

March 1, Sun, 5pm, 9th **Annual Woody Benefit Dinner**, Towne Crier Café, Main St, Beacon. Cocktail hour, dinner, raffle & door prizes, live music by Elissa Jones Band. Proceeds for Woody sloop restoration. Donation \$75. Reservations by Feb 24th. For details & res form, www.beaconsloopclub.org.

March 12, Thurs, 7pm, "**Pharmaceuticals in the Watershed**" with Dr. Emma Rossi-Martin. At the Beacon Sloop Club Clubhouse, Beacon train station plaza.

March 13, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Screening of Robert Stone's *Earthdays* in anticipation of April's Earth Day celebrations. More details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

March 14, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Joe Jencks and Natalia Zukerman**. Check out the story on page 1, and come see a great show. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 for advance tickets via credit card (\$18), 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 6:45pm. Info: www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or 914-946-1625.

March 21, Sat, 3-7pm, **Clearwater's Open Boat Event at the Kingston Homeport & Education Center**, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston (next to the Hudson River Maritime Museum). Food & drink, music & more. Check www.clearwater.org for more details.

Landfill Leaching Perils Groundwater

Water percolating through the waste in landfills all across the U.S. contains a number of chemicals that reflect the daily activities of Americans, according to the first nationwide study of chemical contaminants in the water leachate from landfills. The study, conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, shows pharmaceuticals, insect repellent and chemicals in household products are very widespread in landfills.

The chemicals that were most frequently detected include the plastics chemical bisphenol A (also known as BPA and implicated as an estrogenic mimic), the nicotine metabolite cotinine, the popular (and most effective) insect repellent DEET, the anesthetic and anti-itch compound lidocaine, and the moth-repelling chemical camphor.

Leachate samples were taken from 19 landfills across the country, with the number of detected chemicals ranging from 6 to 82. Concentrations spanned six orders of magnitude, some of them dangerously high and a serious risk to groundwater resources. As would be expected, landfills with

the highest amounts of precipitation had the highest concentrations and the greatest number of detected contaminants.

If we continue to dump these hazardous but widely used substances into our waste stream and down the drains in our homes, we will seriously contaminate our limited freshwater supplies and either poison ourselves or make it prohibitively expensive to clean up. It's our choice, and it's time we paid attention.

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 2015 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		

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, Moira Croghan, Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

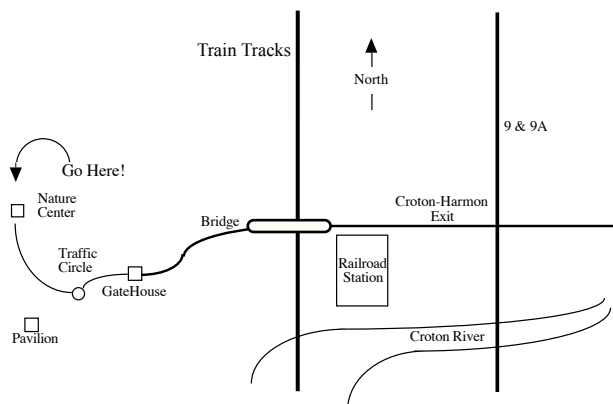
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of Robert Stone's *Earthdays*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, March 13, 2015

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center