



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 5, May 2007

Riverlovers Doings

Our next Potluck, on the *third* Friday of the month, May 18th, will feature a discussion led by Pace University professor (and Riverlover) Bill Flank on how global warming will be affecting us here in the Hudson Valley. It's coming soon to our neighborhood, and there are things we need to know about and start doing. Think globally, but act locally—learn what *you* can do.



We will also finish any last-minute preparations for the ShadFest on May 20th that will involve every one of us, and then some, for our biggest event of the year. Check Gunnar Andersen's article below for some more opportunities to really be a Riverlover in deed!

Our last Monthly Potluck, on April 20, was on the *third* Friday of the month and featured a screening of "*Swim for the River*", a documentary film about Christopher Swain, who was the first person to swim the entire length of the Hudson River. Our old friend Stan Weingast led a discussion after the film. Read Cynthia Andersen's extensive report elsewhere in this issue, especially if you missed this informative showing.

The last Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse of the current season on May 12th will feature the guitar and bass duo Trout Fishing in America. They've got a great mix of music that has won several national awards and three Grammy nominations. These evenings, which include an opening singalong starting at 6:45, are lots of fun. Bring your friends, as we always do, and join in the festivities. You might discover something new, and you won't be sorry!

Finally, just to give you all a heads-up for the future, so you can mark your calendars, the Riverlovers Sail aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, July 15. For all you hard-working Riverlovers, especially our dedicated ShadFest volunteers, this is a glorious way to say "thank you" and enjoy our river.

ShadFest At Croton Point May 20th

Riverlovers 17th Annual ShadFest arrives on the third Sunday of the month, rain or shine, from 11am to 5pm (but early and late helpers are needed, to set up and to take down, so be sure to sign up for a shift—see elsewhere in this issue).

Our co-sponsors include the Westchester County Parks Department, Beacon Sloop Club, Ferry Sloops, and the Hudson River Foundation. Admission is free, and there is a reduced parking rate of \$6. Proceeds from the food sales benefit Clearwater Sloop Clubs' environmental efforts.

There's music, food, environmental exhibits, Chris Letts and his shad samples, Hudson River fishing lore, Native American craft demonstrations, craft vendors, Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, and lots more. Come and be a part of Riverlovers' biggest bash of the year, and don't forget to get your family, friends and neighbors to come too.

Volunteers needed!

by Gunnar Andersen

We could still use more volunteers at the ShadFest on May 20. A few hours of your time could make a big difference in our success, so please call Gunnar (914-432-3112) or Robin (914-271-6088) and let us know what time of day you are available. Invite your friends to volunteer and then invite them for a sail on the Clearwater! The Riverlovers annual sail on the Clearwater on July 15 from the Alpine Marina will be a celebration and appreciation of the volunteers.

There are also volunteer opportunities for the Clearwater Revival on June 16 and 17, watching over the Riverlovers' table in the Sloop Club tent.

Croton River Access Hearing

The Croton Village Board is holding another public forum on access to the Croton River and Mayo's Landing on May 3, 2007 at 7:30pm in the second floor meeting room of the Municipal Building. Officials from other agencies have also been invited for this discussion of the next steps to be taken regarding the efforts of some property owners to restrict access to the river. As Riverlovers, we have a concern for the river and public access to it. Attend the meeting and make your voice heard.

Pay your dues now!

Support our river!

\$15 Individual & \$20 Family

Nominate Pete For Nobel Peace Prize

Pete Seeger has been an ambassador for peace and social justice over the full course of his 88-year lifetime. As a prominent musician and folksinger, his songs, messages and performance style have engaged huge numbers of people, particularly young people, in such causes as ending the Vietnam war, banning nuclear weapons, working for international cooperation, and exercising ecological responsibility.

It's time that a cultural and artistic icon like Pete receives the recognition that work such as his has great influence and global reach. It is not only a medium of entertainment that he engages in, but also one of education, compassion and fraternity among all the peoples of the world.

Join the thousands who have signed the petition to have the American Friends Service Committee nominate Pete Seeger for the Nobel Peace Prize. To sign the petition and for more information, go online to www.petitionthem.com. There isn't anyone more deserving!

"Swim For The River"—Part I

by Cynthia Andersen

On Friday night, April 21, we enjoyed a Potluck of delicious food as we waded through "tributaries" of knowledge about our Hudson River. "Swim for the River" starts with a voyage down the Hudson River as seen through the "water goggled" eyes of Christopher Swain. Chris Swain takes us on a swimmer's odyssey of the Hudson, hoping to motivate and empower each one of us with the knowledge that we can make a difference about environmental disasters.

We may not all put on a wet suit and jump into the Hudson River, but we can reconnect with nature and fight for our environment. The film is divided into chapters. Chapter 1, "The Source," follows Swain as he hikes to the source of the Hudson, "Lake Tear of the Clouds" in the Adirondacks. In Chapter 2, "The Culvert", Swain encounters the first barrier across the river. This barrier, in the form of a gravel mine road ("dam") crossing the river, causes upriver water to pool and warm up, compromising the coldwater habitat in which trout thrive. He tries to convince people in the village of Waterford that it should be removed.

In "Whitewater", Chapter 3, Swain shoots the rapids and we learn that rafting replaced mining and logging on the upper river. Swain rides high through these rapids because a surge of water called "bubble" is released from Abanaki Dam into the Hudson, for the express purpose of helping rafters ride through rapids which would normally be too shallow. These "bubbles" or surges of water, however, disrupt the river habitat with their repeated flushing. We learn there are opposing views of dams. Some say "A dam is evil, placed and solid." Others contend that "Reclamation is the father of putting water to work for man". Conklingville Dam serves as the Hudson's main "faucet". The Sacandaga River, and therefore the level of the Hudson below it, is controlled by the dam. It was built in the 1920's, primarily for flood control for towns like Troy, Albany, Rensselaer and Watervliet.

Chapter 4, "Devastation and Preservation" tells us how the dire consequences of mining and logging led to the creation of Adirondack Park. The Adirondack forest had acted

as a natural sponge, storing rainwater and gradually releasing it into the river system. Due to deforestation the river became prone to a seasonal cycle of flash floods and droughts. By the 1880's the Hudson River was running dry due to businesses that relied on river water for power; and the demand for charcoal and lumber which continued to devour the forest. Plans for a railroad built through the Adirondacks worried New Yorkers that it would cause worse damage. It took a serious drought in 1883 to propel the passage of a law prohibiting the sale of state-owned land in the Adirondacks. Not until 1895 did the New York State Constitution guarantee that the land of the Adirondacks "shall be forever kept as a wild forest lands...". Adirondack Park now contains nearly six million acres, almost half of which belongs to the people of New York.

Chapter 5's "Battle of Corinth" gives us hope as we watch the citizens of the town of Corinth band together to stop the building of a huge trash incinerator which would have been used to decimate New York City's garbage. In 1898 Corinth became a part of International Paper, the world's largest paper company. Water wheels were replaced by water-powered turbines between 1902 and 1912. In Corinth the entire community is dependent upon, and supported by, a single industry—making it a good example of a classic American mill town.

In my next article I will continue with Chapter 9, "Indian Point", the most dangerous place on the Hudson River; Chapter 10, "A Salt Marsh in Yonkers" where urban kids discover the Hudson; and Chapter 11, "River's End" which tells us about America's biggest oil spill on Brooklyn's Newtown Creek.

We were happy to see many old friends who joined us and several new ones who will be joining us in the future. Thanks to Stan Weingast for the "Swim for the River" video.

Global Warming By The Numbers

1 -- Rank of 2006 as hottest year on record in the continental United States.

1 -- Rank of America as top global warming polluter, emitting almost as much as Russia, Japan and E.U. combined.

20% -- Percent increase of America's carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels since 1990.

15% -- Percent increase of America's carbon dioxide emissions forecasted by 2020 if we do not cap pollution.

80% -- Percent decrease in America's global warming pollution required by 2050 to prevent the worst consequences of global warming.

78 -- Number of days by which the U.S. fire season has increased over the past 20 years – tied closely to increased temperatures and earlier snowmelt.

200 million -- Number of people who could be displaced worldwide by more intense droughts, sea level rise and flooding by 2080.

0 -- Number of federal bills passed by Congress to set a mandatory, economy-wide cap on America's global warming pollution.

0 -- Number of times President Bush has mentioned "global warming" or "climate change" in his previous State of the Union speeches. Progress is being made, however. The other night it was mentioned once.



What's Happening When

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

May 4, Fri, 1-3pm & May 5, Sat, 9am-3pm, **Household Chemical Clean-up Days** at FDR State Park, Yorktown.

May 5, Sat, 8pm, **MainStage Coffee House Foundation presents Greg Brown** at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Tickets \$35. Info: 800-595-4849 or www.themainstage.org.

May 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents Trout Fishing in America** at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, open seating. Afternoon children's concert \$10 for kids 12 & under, \$17.50 for others. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

May 18, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Pace professor (and Riverlover) Bill Flank will fill us in on what global warming will do to the Hudson Valley. See page 1 story for details.

May 20, Sun, 11am-5pm, **Riverlovers 17th Annual Shad-Fest at Croton Point Park**. You've got to be there! See story on page 1 for details.

June 8, Fri, 1-3pm & June 9, Sat, 9am-3pm, **Household Chemical Clean-up Days** at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.

June 10, Sun, 12-6pm, **Beacon Sloop Club's Strawberry Festival** at Beacon Waterfront Park, next to Metro-North train station. Info: www.beaconsloopclub.org.

June 16 & 17, Sat & Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point Park**. Order your tickets early, or sign up now to be a Sloop Club Tent Volunteer for Riverlovers. Info: (845) 454-7673, ext. 123 or (800) 67SLOOP or www.CLEARWATERFESTIVAL.org.

Voluntary Climate Goals Not Working

According to the General Accounting Office, many companies participating in voluntary federal programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change have not made satisfactory progress. The government lacks policies to sanction corporations not meeting their goals, according to a report by Congressional auditors.

There are two programs encouraging corporations to set their own emissions reduction goals. One is EPA's Climate Leaders Program, the other is the Energy Department's Climate Vision Program. GAO's report found only 38 of the 74 companies participating in EPA's program have even set an emissions reduction goal. EPA has no written policy on what to do about companies that are not making progress.

Trade groups participating in the Energy Department program generally had set goals for curbing emissions be-

fore joining the program, and DOE expects them to develop plans for measuring and reporting emissions within a year.

While the GAO says 11 of the 15 participating groups had such plans, two of the laggards have been in the program since 2003 with no progress. With no penalties or incentives, companies can just ignore their obligations and still claim to be green. In effect, they are saying "Regulate us or we won't do a thing, but we'll still take credit for being responsive." Talk about ethics and responsibility!

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:
 Individual \$40 Mariner \$500
 Family \$55 Sailing-Master \$1000
 Contributor \$100 Benefactor \$5000
 Sponsor \$200 Student \$10

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please include check payable to Clearwater, or charge by credit card
 Visa MC Discover 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

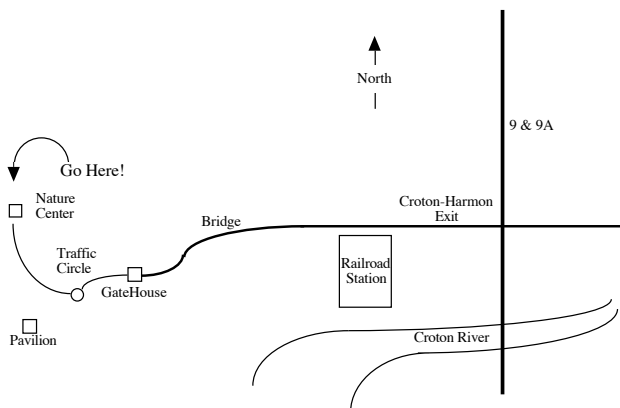
Newsletter Submissions

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

May Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Gunnar Andersen, Robin Fox, Eric Marshall

Pre-ShadFest Potluck and "Global Warming in the Hudson Valley"



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Friday, May 18, 2007
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center