



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 26, Number 5, May 2013

Message From The President

Our April 19 Potluck was well attended. We had good eats and we talked about activities for the spring and the summer. Everyone liked the screening of "America Revealed—Electric Nation". We watched host Yul Kwon at the top of a coal tower elevator that delivers coal non-stop to coal trains a mile long. He interviewed the administrator for the control room of all of New York State about the August 2003 blackout that knocked out all of the state and other parts of the Northeast. The most exciting part was when he rode in a small helicopter with a High Voltage Lineman. The helicopter hovered only a few feet away from power lines, and the lineman would make contact with a "hot-stick" to the live wire, virtually making the helicopter part of the high voltage circuit, to reinforce the cable while the power was on. The lineman is a crucial link to a complex grid. This reminds me of my Con Edison career. During outages I would crawl inside boilers for inspections, when the power plant was on-line, working in 140-degree heat. All in a day's work!

The Westchester County Earth-Day celebration at the Kensico Dam plaza was a huge success, with people of all ages learning about our activities, and what the Riverlovers stand for. We have gathered quite a list of e-mail addresses and phone numbers, to notify people of our future activities.

April 28 at 12 noon we will be touring Wildflower Island at the Teatown Reservation, led by our own Daria Gregg. Thank you to all who reserved a spot. We will meet at the lobby of the Teatown Nature Center (1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY 10562). Be sure to bring a bagged lunch for a group picnic afterward.

The next week, Sunday May 5, I will lead a walk at the Sylvan Lake Park Preserve in Yorktown near the border of Cortlandt. This is a site of a quarry that was closed down during WW2. The quarry was never reopened, but it was finally made into a park only recently with the backing of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. The best directions are to go to Route 202 and turn north at Lexington Ave (opposite the Hess gas station). At 0.5 miles, turn right onto Morris Lane and head down for 0.2 miles, where we will meet at the little parking area. Call me at home (914-739-9028) or my cell (914-319-3379) if you are coming or you need help with directions. The walk is free.

The Friends of the Great Swamp will have a few canoe trips in late spring. I'd like to try the Saturday, May 24 tour at 2 pm from Patterson Environmental Park to Haviland Hol-

low Brook. The cost for this one-way 3½ hour guided trip is \$50. The other canoe trip is a guided round trip from Green Chimneys on June 8 at 12 noon. The cost of this trip is only \$32. Both trips are an adventure through the magical wilderness of the Great Swamp, exploring every twist and turn of the River, and learning about the special biodiversity of this wetland area. I have to pay a ½-price deposit, so to reserve a spot, send a check made out to Warren Lindholm at 63 Cordwood Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567, by May 1.

For the May 17 Potluck at the Croton Point Nature Center, I'd like to give a short talk about fossil fuel power generation and its effect on global warming.

The Clearwater Revival is on June 15 and 16. If you are not a volunteer, please attend the festival, and bring friends and family. This is a wonderful experience. The Monthly Potluck will be a short one on Friday June 14 and will be a sign-up for Riverlovers' Clearwater volunteers.

In July and August we will have some sails on our members' sailboat, the Solar Wind. Also, rental kayaks will be available this summer at the far south end of the Croton-Harmon train station. We can go upstream and explore the Croton River. Both activities should be fun and educational.

Thanks to Bill Flank for arranging Riverlovers' favorite activity, a sail on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, out of Beacon. The date is Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 4:30pm. We ask for a low-cost suggested donation of \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members, which we share with our Clearwater parent organization. Send a check made out to Riverlovers to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562. It's a bargain for everyone!

Walkabout Coffeehouse Season Finale

Saturday, May 11 will be the final Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse of our 25th season! Work o' The Weavers will be the performers. The quartet began its career ten years ago on the Walkabout stage. Since then they have performed many times on many stages. Featured in a Work o' The Weavers' concert are not only the beloved, familiar songs of The Weavers, but some current favorites, and some original songs. All are songs The Weavers might be singing today.

Be sure to mark your calendar, buy your ticket, and post the attached flier for this special concert. The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse concert season resumes Saturday, October 12, 2013 with our good friend John McCutcheon. See you soon, then in the Fall, and also at Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival on Father's Day weekend.

Arctic Sea Ice Disappearing

According to a report from Boston University's Department of Earth and Environment, and quoting from the data collected by the National Snow and Ice Data Center, monthly June ice extent in the Arctic for 1979 to 2012 shows a decline of 2.9 percent per decade. Winters are already significantly warmer and shorter than just 30 years ago. The temperature regimes and plant life of the south have marched more than 700 kilometers northward, new research shows.

If we don't curb carbon emissions, Arctic Sweden might be more like the south of France by the end of the century. The frozen north is leaving and won't be back for millennia, due to heat-trapping carbon emissions from continuing the burning of fossil fuels, experts say.

By 2091, the north will have seasons, temperatures and possibly vegetation comparable to those found today 20 to 25 degrees of latitude further south. Canada, Northern Eurasia and the Arctic are warming faster than elsewhere as a result of the loss of snow and ice. In 90 years, Alaska or Canada's Baffin Island in the Arctic may have seasons and temperatures comparable to those in today's Oregon and southern Ontario.

An international team of 21 researchers from seven countries used newly-improved ground and satellite data to measure changes in temperatures and vegetation over the four seasons from roughly above the U.S.-Canada border (45 degrees latitude) to the Arctic Ocean. They found temperatures over the northern lands have increased at different rates during the four seasons over the past 30 years, with winters warming most, followed by spring temperatures.

There is a huge difference between winter and summer temperatures in the north, but that difference is less and less every year, according to the study, titled "Temperature and Vegetation Seasonality Diminishment Over Northern Lands". This actual measured change is happening faster than projected by climate models.

One clear sign is the greening of the Arctic. The types of plants that could go no further north than 57 degrees north latitude 30 years ago are now found at 64 degrees. This change is "easily visible on the ground as an increasing abundance of tall shrubs and tree incursions in several locations all over the circumpolar Arctic," said co-author Terry Callaghan of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the University of Sheffield, UK.

Seasonality is often called the rhythm of life. Changes will impact many species, considering the enormous numbers of birds, animals and other species that migrate north to feast during the short northern summer. "The way of life of many organisms on Earth is tightly linked to seasonal changes in temperature and availability of food, and all food on land comes first from plants," said Scott Goetz, deputy director and senior scientist, Woods Hole Research Center.

"Think of migration of birds to the Arctic in the summer and hibernation of bears in the winter: Any significant alterations to temperature and vegetation seasonality are likely to impact life not only in the north but elsewhere in ways that we do not yet know," Goetz said in a statement.

The Arctic is home to millions of square kilometers of permafrost with its vast amount of frozen carbon. The am-

plified warming of the Arctic will release some of this carbon, leading to greater warming around the planet for hundreds of years, the study also warns.

In recent weeks, satellite images of the Arctic Ocean have revealed large fractures in the sea ice during the coldest part of winter. Sea ice does not normally begin to break up until at least April. The mid-February fracturing was extensive and unusual, sea ice expert Mark Serreze, the director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, observed.

Last summer's record melt of sea ice was 80 percent greater when compared to summers 30 or more years ago. This winter, most of the ice in the Arctic is thin, first-year ice that is more easily fractured and likely to melt quickly when the summer comes.

The ramifications of this planetary-scale change are just beginning to be understood. The 2012 sea ice collapse amplified the destructive power of Superstorm Sandy, researchers reported recently in the *Journal of Oceanography*. The severe loss of summertime Arctic sea ice appears to affect the jet stream, according to the scientists. That helped Hurricane Sandy take a powerful turn west instead of steering northeast and out to sea like most October hurricanes, researchers say in their paper, "Superstorm Sandy: A Series of Unfortunate Events?" We had best take heed while we still can do something.

Keystone XL Pipeline Horror Scenario

Imagine coming home to this: Oil oozing down your driveway, pooling in your back yard, and filling up your local waterways. Sounds like a nightmare, right?

This is the reality that families in Mayflower, Arkansas, have had to deal with since more than 500,000 gallons of dirty tar sands oil and water spilled out of a ruptured Exxon Mobil pipeline last month.

This shouldn't have happened. That's why it's critical that President Obama and Secretary Kerry reject the construction of a much bigger pipeline, Keystone XL, which could cause even more devastating spills of tar sands crude in waterways and lands across America. This is oil destined for export and profit, not for meeting our domestic needs.

Unfortunately, the spill in Arkansas repeats a story we know all too well. In 2010, an Enbridge Energy pipeline in Michigan broke and spilled more than 800,000 gallons of toxic tar sands crude into the Kalamazoo River—and it still hasn't been fully cleaned up. That same year, TransCanada, the company that wants to build the Keystone XL pipeline now, built a pipeline that experienced 12 separate spills in a single year. In 2011, one of Exxon Mobil's pipelines in Montana ruptured and contaminated the Yellowstone River. And even just last month, a train derailed in Minnesota and spilled 30,000 gallons of tar sands crude.

If these stories make your stomach churn, that's understandable. It's absolutely infuriating that we keep allowing Big Oil to put our lands, water, and wildlife at risk, when we have seen over and over how badly it ends.

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline would be a monster—carrying 20 times more oil than the Exxon pipeline that burst in the Yellowstone River two years ago. Even people in Canada are against it. That's a message we should listen to!



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.

May 5, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers Hike in Sylvan Lake Preserve in Yorktown.** Old quarry with lots of interesting and historical sites. Details on page 1. Call Warren to sign up.

May 11, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Work o' The Weavers.** Enjoy folk music at its best. 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 6:45pm. Info: call 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

May 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center.** Share food and impressions, and discuss fossil fuel power generation and its impact on global warming. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

June 15-16, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point.** The festival event of the year! Mark date, & pitch in to help staff Riverlovers' outreach table. Call Warren to sign up for a Volunteer pass.

Aug 18, Sun, 4:30-8pm, **Riverlovers Annual Sail on Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.** Call Warren to reserve your spot. Send donation checks made out to Riverlovers (\$15 members, \$25 non-members) to our treasurer, Daria Gregg, at 51 Old Albany Post Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

Coal And Water Don't Mix

Burning coal for electricity produces ash and sludge full of arsenic, boron, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and selenium. Where do you think it all goes?

That's right—the same power plants that are causing asthma with their soot and wrecking our climate with their carbon are also dumping tons of toxins into our waters. And without federal rules to stop them, those plants would keep on sending toxic sludge into rivers and streams, where it threatens swimmers and boaters, poisons wildlife, and wrecks ecosystems.

Power plants produce more toxic waste than any other industry in the United States, including the chemical, plastic, and paint manufacturing industries. They spew millions of pounds of pollutants into our waters every year—toxins that are dangerous even in very low concentrations. Your drinking water is safe because we do a great job of filtering and cleaning, but our wildlife and ecosystems aren't so lucky.

The problem's only getting worse as coal plants get older and dirtier. The EPA estimates that the amount of toxic wastewater from these plants is going to increase 28%

over the next 15 years. That means more heavy metals and more toxic sludge in our waters—more contaminated rivers, more unhealthy streams, more poisoned wildlife.

Every step we take toward clean air and water helps keep our communities and environment healthy. It also takes us one step closer to the clean-energy future where our nation finally realizes that coal's real cost—in climate destruction, toxic water, and poison air—is simply too high.

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

May Newsletter Contributors: Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

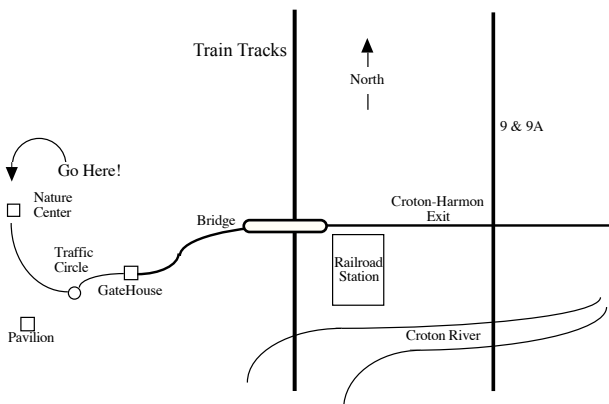
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck "Power Generation Impacts"



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, May 17, 2013

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center