



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 27, Number 5, May 2014

Message From The President

Let's help clean the Hudson riverfront. On Saturday, May 10th at 1:00pm, we will team up with the Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary group to clean up the shores of Peekskill Riverfront Green Park. Riverkeeper, who is sponsoring this event, will give out coupons for a free beer at the Peekskill Brewery right across the railroad tracks from the park, but you must register. Daria Gregg suggested that, if you want to help out, please register at the Riverkeeper website, and make sure you are signing up for Peekskill Riverfront. Riverkeeper will only give Daria coupons for those who register. This is a great opportunity for Riverlovers to practice what we preach. We will celebrate a good job afterwards at the Peekskill Brewery with food and drink.

The next weekend will be very busy. First, we have our Friday evening Potluck on May 16th at 6:30pm. We will screen the video *'Til the River Runs Clear*. This is a story about people working together to clean up the Hudson River, featuring Pete Seeger and the *Clearwater*.

On Saturday, May 17th "FRoGS" (Friends of the Great Swamp) is offering a 7-mile half-day downstream paddle starting from the Patterson Environmental Park and ending at Green Chimneys. Celebrate at the Pavilion with food, music, prizes, and festivities! This is a beautiful experience. It's a longer trip than last year's paddle, but so far it's the only one offered. This is a fundraiser for "FRoGS" so they are asking for a \$55 registration fee and to provide your own kayak or canoe. They will provide assistance on the river, and a return ride. Let me know if you are interested. Some of our members and me have spare kayaks and canoes. Rental canoes and kayaks are available from the Ski Haus on Route 22 near Green Chimneys.

I'm glad to announce that the Riverlovers have been invited to have a free outreach table at the Westchester County-sponsored Earth Day celebration at Croton Point Park on Sunday, May 18th from 10am to 3pm. The organizers anticipate several thousand people will visit. This should be a valuable opportunity to showcase our Sloop Club. We need you to volunteer at the table! Call me to sign up.

On Saturday, May 31st we will again have an opportunity to tour Wildflower Island, at the Teatown Reservation. The address is 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY 10562. This tour was very successful last year and was sold out. See Daria's article in this newsletter. 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, Ossining, NY 10562.

The Clearwater Revival festival will be held on the weekend of June 21-22, which is the week after Father's Day this year. The Friday, June 20th Potluck will also be a volunteer sign-up. For Saturday we need volunteers for the Riverlovers outreach table (four of the volunteers can only help on Sunday). Please call me if you can fill in the gap.

I just want to mention that the film "Pandora's Promise" will be available as a DVD in late June. There should be no problem with the sound. I would like to screen this important film later on in the year, for anyone who has missed the March showing or would like to hear the movie clearly. I found a great synopsis from the Slate blog, that should clear up some misconceptions about energy use and availability.

Bill Flank (a member of the Board of Directors of Clearwater) will inquire about a date for our very popular Clearwater sail this Summer. We will also sail on our members' sailboat, the Solar Wind, this summer.

For the Autumn, we will screen some PBS specials including Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, *The Antarctica Challenge—Global Warming*, and *Car of the Future*.

This will be an interesting Spring, Summer, and Autumn. Be part of Riverlovers, and bring your friends and family to our activities. Thank you for your support.

Clearwater News Flash

Clearwater's Executive Director Search Committee, chaired by Riverlovers' Bill Flank, reports that the engagement of a new Executive Director is imminent. Following a lengthy search process, including the review of 67 applications and extensive interviews, the final stages of contracting with an outstanding new leader are being completed as you read this.

The Search Committee sought proven management ability, skills in reaching consensus for change with financial stability, and leadership taking Clearwater forward in preserving and protecting our river and its watershed.

Pay your dues now—support our river! \$25 Individual & \$35 Family

It cost \$9.30 a year to send you the *Riverlovers Currents*. Please consider adding at least that much to your annual dues. Support your Newsletter and the river, and get your friends to join you.

Our Wildflower Island Private Tour

Riverlovers is having a private tour with our own tour guide, Daria Gregg. Teatown's Wildflower Island is a local treasure. Spring, with all its flowers and emerging green, is very special on Wildflower Island.

Protected from deer and invasive plants, it provides you with a look into our past when all our local woods were full of wildflowers. You will see over 40 varieties at the end of May. We may encounter some of the Trillium species, Wild Geranium, May-Apple and Fire Pink—and if we are lucky the prized pink and yellow Lady Slippers. Flowers emerge in the forest before all the leaves have come out, when there is still plenty of sunlight on the forest floor. Plants are pretty smart, huh?

Daria is looking forward to showing you this special local treasure. See the President's Message on page 1 for details on how to sign up for this limited-space special treat.

New Tappan Zee Bridge By 2016

New York expects to have traffic on the first of two new spans by 2016, and it will have eight lanes of traffic as well as express bus lanes. The northern span will also have a bike and pedestrian path. Once that is finished, all traffic will move onto it as the southern span is built where the old bridge is currently located. A consortium of local and national companies working on the project is expected to create thousands of jobs.

The new bridge will only use electronic toll collecting. Those with E-Z Pass won't have to slow down, and others would be billed by mail after their license plate was photographed. Tolls are expected to rise, but local residents may receive a discount.

Environmental mitigation includes noise reduction by use of vibratory pile drivers and bubble curtains to trap the sound in the water. This will limit disturbance for residents and also help protect endangered Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon native to the Hudson.

While designs for later parts of the project are still being worked on, the eventual inclusion of a Metro-North rail line is being accommodated. While not everybody is happy with everything about the project, at least an effort has been made to address some of the concerns people have raised. If we're building for the future, it makes sense to plan for it.

Walkabout Coffeehouse Features

John Gorka In May

Winding up a stellar lineup this season, May 10th at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse will feature John Gorka, a world-renowned singer-songwriter from New Jersey who got his start at a neighborhood coffeehouse in eastern Pennsylvania.

The second Saturday of every month in the Fall and Spring features terrific entertainment and a folksy environment, so plan on making this a regular habit. Great people, great music, refreshments, free parking, a chance to join in with the Walkabout Chorus in a Singalong every month—that's a combination that's hard to beat. And you'll be helping to support Clearwater as well as folk music! See page 3 listing for more info.

Feedback

Thank you to Warren for arranging the March 21st Potluck. *Too bad!* the projection proved so faulty and unsatisfying. *Too bad* also that because of the nature of the "showing," no one had energy left for discussion.

I guess the up-to-date machines in all their technological splendor had the last word—nuclear energy / nuclear power—is faulty. The inherent dangers are as dangerous in the long run of history as is our use of fossil fuels. What I got from the movie is that renewable energy is our only "salvation," and we'd better get on it NOW!

I never got why the title includes reference to Pandora. Here's the Wikipedia version of the Greek story of Pandora—she's another ancient woman who brings down the perfect world the Gods have given *man*:

Pandora's Box: Pandora, according to Greek mythology, was the first woman on earth. Created by Zeus in revenge for Prometheus's stealing of fire, she was given a box that she was told not to open. Either she or her husband Epimetheus—tellings diverge on that point—opened the box, allowing all manner of evils to escape and plague the world. A Pandora's Box is anything that, upon investigation, leads to extensive and unexpected troubles. Example: *The investigation of drug use among the athletes opened a Pandora's Box implicating half the league.*

I'd leave that box shut.

Robin Fox

What Are We Doing To Our Water?

Here are some comments from a sister organization, Friends of the Eel River in California, that describe a sad story about our water resources. The Bay Area Director, David Keller, noted recently in the New York Times that "Over the past 166 years, since California's Gold Rush first destroyed rivers en masse in the quest for gold and silver, we have continued to decimate our rivers and groundwater for our growing population and agriculture, including all the Public Trust resources that had thrived with them."

"We have altered our geography, hydrology and geology, frequently depleting our water, soils, air and local economies. No civilization can survive long with this kind of damage to the natural resources needed for it to prosper and grow. Without significant changes in our water policies and demands, the long-term picture for the West is not good."

"We need to address problematic policies of 'free' and subsidized water, over-drafted groundwater basins and dammed rivers, farming water-intensive crops for export in our semi-arid desert, contamination and loss of soils through chemistry and erosion, and the immense (and mostly hidden) electricity costs to move all this water around through huge engineering projects."

"The history books are full of dusty and dead civilizations. Is that our future?"

Sadly too, that's just the tip of the iceberg, and we all are in for the inevitable water wars that our head-in-the-sand policies are generating. Incredible waste, privatization, short-sighted priorities and competition for dwindling resources are accelerating our headlong plunge into crisis. Is it too late?



What's Happening When

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

May 10, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring John Gorka.** Check out the story on page 2, and come see a delightful show. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 via credit card (\$20) or \$25 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: 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

May 16, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center, featuring a screening of the video about Pete Seeger & the Clearwater, *'Til the River Runs Clear*. More details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

May 31, Sat, 11am, **Riverlovers private tour of Wildflower Island at Teatown.** Very limited space available for this special event. See more details on page 1 and sign up promptly.

June 20, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Sign up for Revival outreach table staffing.

June 21-22, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival** at Croton Point Park.

Scary Facts About Rail Cars & Oil

For more than 20 years, the National Transportation Safety Board has warned that the old DOT-111 tank cars meeting the long-outmoded safety standards still in place, are prone to spills, ruptures and fires in a derailment.

In recent years these cars have increasingly been used to transport crude oil from newer fields, especially North Dakota's Bakken shale formation and Alberta's tar sands. There are few pipelines in place, so about two-thirds is shipped by rail to refineries. Here are some of the numbers:

- 415,000 carloads of crude oil hauled by rail in 2013, up from only 9500 carloads in 2008. Each carload represents about 30,000 gallons of flammable liquid, and some trains haul more than 100 tank cars at a time.

- Accidents last year spilled more than a million gallons of crude oil, compared to an average of only 22,000 gallons a year from 1975 thru 2012, representing a 50-fold increase.

- The total number of tank cars in the active fleet on the rails, both pressurized and non-pressurized, is 335,000, while the number that meet even the old DOT-111 standards is 228,000.

- The number of oil industry-owned DOT-111 tank cars is 92,000, and the number built to the latest rail industry safety standards is only 14,000.

It's about time the older fleet of some 78,000 DOT-111 tank cars is phased out of hazardous service, or at least upgraded to new standards. What's more, the rail industry needs to step up its efforts to avoid human error, remedy track defects and address antiquated signal systems. The Department of Transportation needs to act decisively to address the downside of our insatiable energy appetite before yet another disaster makes the headlines.

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 2014 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:
 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.
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

May Newsletter Contributors: Sandy Flank, Robin Fox, Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

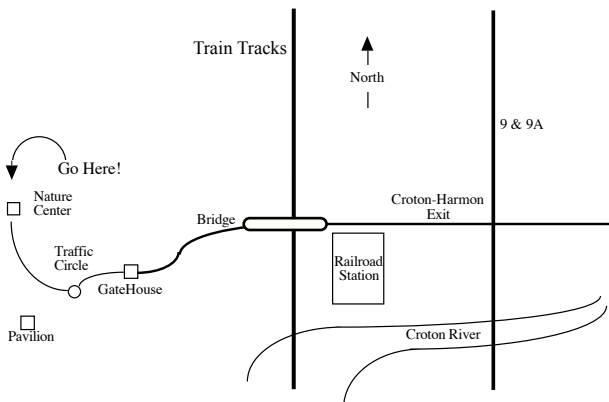
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and showing of 'Til the River Runs Clear



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, May 16, 2014

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center