



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 28, Number 5, May 2015

Message from the President

Riverlovers will have a very busy Spring. The activities include Earthday outreach, Earthday cleanups, a "FRoGS" kayak trip and a visit to the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx.

For the April meeting we screened "Call of the Loon", produced by Mountain Lake PBS. This documentary follows the story of mercury from the Midwest coal-fired power plants to the Adirondack lakes to the politicians in Washington D.C. This film was produced in 2006 under the previous administration, which allowed mercury emissions from coal plants. After the film I gave out handouts from the EPA website for Mercury and Air Toxic Standards (MATS).

In December 2011 the EPA finalized the first ever MATS. The use of widely-available controls will reduce harmful air toxics and help modernize the aging fleet of fossil power-plants, many of which are over 50 years old.

Ferry Sloops invites Riverlovers to hear our own Cynthia Andersen speak about "The Hudson River School of Painting" at their Wednesday, May 6th meeting at the Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining. See our calendar on page 3 for more details.

Riverkeeper will have its 4th annual RiverSweep on Saturday, May 9th at 9:30 am. We will meet at the rotunda in Peekskill Riverfront Green. To register, go to the Riverkeeper website and also notify Daria. I suggest that it would be good if you can bring sturdy shoes, work gloves and a long handled picker-upper. Let us do our part to clean up the shore line of the Hudson River.

For the Friday, May 15th Riverlovers Potluck meeting at 6:30pm, we will have our own member, Cynthia Andersen, give a lecture and a PowerPoint presentation on "American Impressionism." She will also discuss the artist Frida Kahlo. (See our May 21st activity below.)

Riverlovers will be at the Paddle for the Great Swamp in Putnam County sponsored by Friends of the Great Swamp (FRoGS) on Saturday May 16 (rain date May 17). This 7-mile half-day downstream paddle starts at Patterson Environmental Park and ends at Green Chimneys. There will be food, live music, prizes, and festivities at the Green Chimneys pavilion. Several members have expressed interest. Sign-up deadline is May 8th. Call me if you are interested.

On Thursday, May 21st at 10 am we will meet at Gunnar Andersen's house to carpool to the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx to view the Frida Kahlo exhibit. (See Daria Gregg's article in this issue.) E-mail Gunnar at

gunnara@yahoo.com for directions and Daria at Dariaweb@verizon.net to sign-up for this interesting trip.

We will have an informal Potluck on Friday, June 19th at 6 pm for our volunteers at the Clearwater Festival and anyone interested in dropping by.

I have contacted Constitution Marsh and Iona Island Educational Center, for available dates for canoeing at these waterways. These are wonderful excursions. Details later.

We'll also plan on having walks at Oscawana Island Park and the Croton Gorge Park.

This Summer we will sail on our members' sailboat, the Solar Wind, and we will also sail on the mighty Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Bill Flank got us a Clearwater date: Friday, July 31st from 6 to 8pm, sailing from Beacon. Call Warren to reserve your place onboard. See the June-July issue for more details.

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

We're Helping With RiverSweep May 9th

by Daria Gregg

Riverlovers and United Universalist Green Sanctuary are the hosts of the yearly Riverkeeper RiverSweep cleanup in the Peekskill area. There are three options to volunteer for:

- Peekskill Riverfront Park near the train station
- Annsville Preserve, down the dirt road beyond Dills Lumber and the Jan Peek house
- Annsville Preserve by kayak

Please register at Riverkeeper.org/Sweep. They need you to sign a liability form at this website. It helps the people registering you at the site for which you volunteered.

I hope to see a lot of you in Peekskill ON MAY 9TH, 9:30am TO 2pm. COME JOIN US UPSTAIRS AT THE PEEKSKILL BREWERY AFTER THE CLEAN-UP FOR LUNCH AND TO USE YOUR FREE COUPON FOR A BEER OR OTHER BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.

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.

Riverlovers Botanical Garden Trip

by Daria Gregg

I have marked Thursday, May 21st on my calendar for taking everyone to the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Please contact me at Dariaweb@Verizon.net if you want to go. At the museum is some of the art of Frida Kahlo, and if people are interested after seeing the Kahlo exhibit, we can tour the Botanical Garden's Native Plant Center. Below is a write up from the Botanical Garden.

Quite a few people have expressed interest. Once I get the number of people interested, I'll see if we can get a group rate, but numbers have to be higher than 15, I think. I have parking passes for four cars, which saves each car \$15 parking fee. The senior rate during the week is \$15 per person. Meet at 10am, carpooling from the Andersens' house. Please e-mail me promptly if you're interested in going.

FRIDA KAHLO:

Art, Garden, Life



FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life will focus on the iconic artist's engagement with nature in her native country of Mexico. The exhibition will be the first solo presentation of Kahlo's work in New York City in more than 10 years, and the first exhibition to focus exclusively on her intense interest in the botanical world.

Walkabout Coffeehouse News

by Robin Fox

Along with this edition of Riverlovers *Currents*, you will find the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse flier for the May 9, 2015 Coffeehouse concert featuring Kim and Reggie Harris. This concert will bring the 27th Coffeehouse season to a close with a bang. Kim and Reggie always give a tremendous concert, full of wonderful music and wisdom.

Mark it on your calendars, and come to the Coffeehouse for a special evening of great acoustic music and good friendship. Advance tickets for individual concerts are on sale at www.BrownPaperTickets.com. Take advantage of the informal songfest with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at 6:45, prior to the concert at 7:30pm.

Please post your copy of the flier where it will draw attention and help bring in an audience, and plan to be in the audience yourself for a wonderful evening. Remember that your posting of the flier is a gesture for our mother ship Clearwater, as the proceeds from the Coffeehouse (after Coffeehouse production costs are covered) go to Clearwater.

What We're Doing to Our Oceans

Conditions in the Antarctic Ocean and along the West Coast of the U.S. have become so unnaturally acidic that the shells of sea butterflies, a species of pteropods, are literally dissolving away, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The chemistry of the world's oceans is changing, thanks to the carbon dioxide humans continue to spew into our atmosphere. Oceans absorb between one-quarter to one-third of that carbon dioxide. Over time, it has turned the ocean from a slightly alkaline state to a bit more acidic.

According to some estimates, the ocean's pH level 150 years ago was about 8.2. It's now about 8.1. It may seem to be an infinitesimal shift, but it's much worse than it sounds, and the acidity has substantially increased. The more acidic the ocean gets, the harder it is for marine life like oysters, clams and corals to form calcium carbonate skeletons and shells. In the case of pteropods, the increased acidity of the ocean is actually eating away at their shells.

"The first thing that happens is the dissolution of their shell," according to NOAA's Dr. Nina Bednarsek. "Dissolution can be mild, to very severe. Once you have it dissolving on the outside, you have to put so much more energy into the shell in order to maintain it. The energy that you would otherwise use for other important physiological maintenance you are putting into shell maintenance."

Researchers working off the coast of Oregon, Washington and California in 2011 discovered that over half of the sea butterflies they found onshore were victims of "severe dissolution damage." Offshore, about 24 percent were damaged. If we don't change our ways, by 2050, researchers estimate that coastal waters will be 70 percent more acidic than they were in the pre-industrial era.

Pteropods are little swimming snails. They earned their nickname of sea butterflies because of the little "wings" they use to swim, which make them resemble graceful underwater butterflies. The devastating impact of the ocean's corrosive water on sea butterflies' shells is not just bad news for the pteropods themselves. A number of other ocean dwellers that rely on pteropods for food will suffer.

"In the Arctic, these species get really big," Dr. Bednarsek says. "A lot of organisms actually depend on them—among them birds, fish, and whales." In certain areas, sea butterflies make up 60 percent of the diet of young pink salmon, for example. Herring and mackerel also rely on them for sustenance. Pteropods are one of the first rungs in the ocean's food chain. Without them, the other higher links in that chain may not survive.

The influence of industrialized humanity on our environment is undeniably negative. Our reliance on fossil fuels with their carbon dioxide byproducts must change if we are to have any chance of reversing these negative impacts. The entire ocean-based food chain now depends on us. We must make changes to restore the balance before it's too late.

"Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures."

Former U. S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day



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.

May 6, Wed, 7:30pm, **Ferry Sloops' Spring Lecture Series.** **Cynthia Andersen**, teacher of 19th century American art, presents "The Hudson River School of Painting." At Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining. Potluck supper at 6:30, business meeting at 7:00, program 7:30-9:00pm. All Riverlovers members are invited.

May 9, Sat, 9:30am, **Riverkeeper's 4th annual River-Sweep.** We will meet at the rotunda in Peekskill Riverfront Green. To register, go to the Riverkeeper website and also notify Daria. See page 1 for more details.

May 9, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Kim & Reggie Harris.** Check out the story on page 2, and come see a great show. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 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: 914-946-1625 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

May 15, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. We will feature our own member, **Cynthia Andersen**, who will give a lecture and a Power-Point presentation on "American Impressionism." She will also discuss the artist Frida Kahlo. (See our May 21st activity below.) Details on page 2. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

May 16, Sat, (rain date May 17) **Paddle for the Great Swamp** in Putnam County sponsored by Friends of the Great Swamp (FRoGS). This 7-mile half-day downstream paddle starts at Patterson Environmental Park and ends at Green Chimneys pavilion, where there will be food, live music, prizes, and festivities. See page 1 for more details.

May 21, Thurs, 10am, Riverlovers trip to the Bronx Botanical Gardens for Frida Kahlo exhibit & Native Plant Center tour with Daria Gregg. Carpool from the Andersens. See details on page 2 for sign-up info.

June 3, Wed, 7:30pm, **Ferry Sloops' Spring Lecture Series.** Singer-songwriter Elaine Romanelli's fresh sound references country, folk, and blues, with a Celtic lilt. At Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining. Potluck, 6:30; business meeting, 7:00; program 7:30-9:00pm. Riverlovers invited.

June 20-21, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point.** Mark the date. Don't miss this big event. Call Warren to volunteer in the Sloop Club tent.

July 31, Fri, 6-8pm, **Riverlovers annual sunset sail aboard the Clearwater**, sailing from Beacon. Meet at 5:30pm at the Beacon dock adjacent to the rail station. Call Warren to reserve your spot.

Quote Without Comment

A 2014 Pew poll compared U.S. adults and scientists:

- Only 37% of adults think it is safe to eat genetically modified foods, while 88% of scientists think it's OK.
- Only 50% of adults think climate change is mostly due to human activity.
- Only 45% of adults favor more nuclear power plants.
- Only 31% of adults favor increased use of fracking, and only 39% of scientists are in favor.

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:

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| 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!

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 |

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

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.

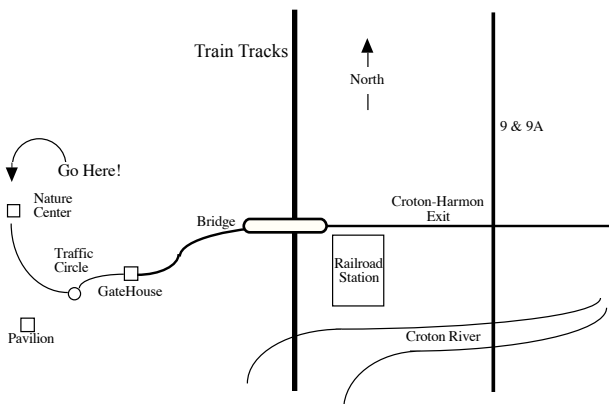
Back issues of *Riverlovers Currents* are available at our web site, www.riverlovers.org

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
May Newsletter Contributors: Robin Fox, Daria Gregg, Warren Lindholm

Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and Cynthia Andersen on *American Impressionism*



Riverlovers, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, May 15, 2015
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center