



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 29, Number 5, May 2016

Message from the President

For the April 15th Potluck meeting, we enjoyed a quick dinner and then adjourned to the Croton Library to hear Dave Bernz and his son, Jacob, sing old and new folk songs and talk about growing up in Croton next door to Lee Hays of *Weavers* fame. Riverlovers also had an outreach table on Wednesday, April 20th at Westchester Community College as part of their Earth Day celebration.

We are invited to have an outreach table at the Croton Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 30th from 10am to 2pm at Vassallo Park. Come see the other exhibits and come volunteer to help at our table to showcase the Riverlovers.

Riverkeeper's annual Riversweep is on Saturday, May 7th. Daria and I will be co-captains at Georges Island Park. We have several volunteers already, but we need more people. This is a change in location from Croton Point Park.

For the May 20th Potluck-meeting on Friday evening at 6:30pm, we are proud to have our own Cynthia Andersen give a talk on "American Impressionism." This is a lead-in for the Riverlovers to re-visit the New York Botanical Garden on Saturday, May 28th. There will be a showing of American Impressionism artists, which will be narrated by Cynthia, and we will visit the Wildflower Gardens which Daria Gregg will describe. We will discuss details at the Potluck for our visit to the Botanical Gardens. Contact Warren to reserve a spot and arrange for meeting up.

For the Potluck on the 3rd Friday of June, the 17th, we will screen National Geographic's "March of the Penguins." Breathtaking photography captures the transcendent beauty and staggering you-are-there drama of devoted parent penguins who, in the face of the fierce polar winter, take turns guarding their egg.

This summer's activities will include canoe trips to Constitution Marsh, and to Iona Island. We will sail on our members' sailboat, the Solar Wind, and our annual sail on Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

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

Clearwater Sloop Needs Your Help

The sloop is looking for volunteers on Sundays! Every Sunday is a volunteer day. Our captain is asking for help in cleaning up the winter maintenance shop after each work

week, as the maintenance team labors to finish the major rebuilding effort to get the sloop in the water by early June.

You don't have to register. Volunteers should just show up on Sundays at the Kingston Home Port at 50 Rondout Landing in Kingston, next to the Maritime Museum. Come up and help to get the job finished, so Clearwater can get back to do its job on the river.

Walkabout Clearwater In The Schools

The Walkabout Chorus has launched a new program, called WITS (Walkabout in the Schools), to further its efforts in promoting environmental awareness and social activism through song, education and other activities.

Pete Seeger, who founded the Chorus in 1984, had said that "Singing with children in the schools has been the most rewarding experience of my life," and "A good song reminds us what we're fighting for." The mission of the WITS program is to continue Pete's legacy and bring music and social awareness into our schools and empower our children through song.

The program is designed to expose the children to the social and environmental issues of today as well as to events of the past. History has shown how powerful a song can be, from the civil rights and anti-war movements to workers' rights, and as recently as the Black Lives Matter movement and the Worldwide Climate Initiative.

The WITS program coordinator, Norma Moshman, can provide more information, and you can contact her with leads for school gigs at norma.moshman@gmail.com.

Microplastics Pollution Is A Big Problem

Those small pieces of plastic less than 5 millimeters in size are a major problem. They don't degrade, and they are everywhere. They have been found in oceans, streams and rivers (the Hudson River included), the Great Lakes and other smaller lakes, in drinking water, and in bodies of both people and animals as well as birds. They are in the polar ice caps, milk, beer, honey, and in the air we breathe. In short, they have contaminated our entire environment.

To learn more, come to the Beacon Sloop Club in Beacon on Thursday, May 19th at 7pm to hear Joshua Kogan discuss sources and impacts of microplastic pollution, both globally and locally. Joshua works as Trash-Free Waters Program Coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in our area, EPA's Region 2.

Indian Point—Distrusted & Not Needed

A recent poll in the Lower Hudson Valley found that a majority of respondents do not trust the Indian Point nuclear plant's safety or its operator. The fact is that we have enough power capacity to permit the immediate closure of this dangerous and outdated facility.

Indian Point is able to generate just over 2000 megawatts of electricity, or about ten percent of peak summer demand in the New York metropolitan area. According to calculations made by the Riverkeeper organization, however, we already have an additional 1500 megawatts of energy capacity available from other sources, such as existing electricity surpluses in New York State, and recently restored power generation from other plants in the Hudson Valley and New York City, together with transmission improvements in the power grid in the Lower Hudson Valley and targeted energy efficiency gains by Con Edison.

In addition, a number of municipalities in Westchester County have now adopted combined buying agreements emphasizing use of renewable wind and solar sources.

The New York Independent System Operator, a non-profit agency charged with managing the state's electricity market, indicated in a report last year that there would be a net reliability "need" of 500 megawatts if Indian Point were to shut down before this summer. Since that study, however, downstate load forecasts for the coming summer have dropped by about 500 megawatts, thanks in part to increases in solar power installations.

The bottom line is that we can close Indian Point now and reliably keep the lights on. In the future, new efficiency and renewable energy projects will drive still greater savings, thanks in no small part to \$5 billion in planned energy investments by the state.

We no longer have to rely on this aging, outmoded, unsafe nuclear plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission needs to cancel and not renew the operating licenses for Indian Point now, and start overseeing an orderly closing and decommissioning.

Pipelines Away!

With one natural-gas pipeline effectively rejected and another pulled off the table last week, anti-pipeline activists are flexing their political muscle in New York.

The activists, many of them opponents of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, are pointing to the state Department of Environmental Conservation's recent rejection of a key permit for the proposed Constitution Pipeline as a symbol of their collective might.

But the investors behind the proposed pipeline vowed to fight the DEC's decision, accusing the state of "flagrant mis-statements" and hinting at what is likely to be an eventual court battle.

The Constitution investors, led by energy-infrastructure company Williams Partners, issued a statement saying they will "pursue all available options" to overturn the state DEC's decision, which effectively blocked the pipeline from moving ahead in New York.

The proposed 124-mile pipeline would carry natural gas from northeast Pennsylvania fracking fields to Schoharie

County, cutting across eastern Broome, Delaware and Chenango counties along the way.

"In spite of NYSDEC's unprecedented decision, we remain absolutely committed to building this important energy infrastructure project, which will create an important connection between consumers and reliable supplies of clean, affordable natural gas," the investors wrote in a joint statement. "We believe NYSDEC's stated rationale for the denial includes flagrant mis-statements and inaccurate allegations, and appears to be driven more by New York State politics than by environmental science."

The DEC denied a water-quality permit application from the Constitution investors, raising concerns about the pipeline's impact on various waterways and accusing the company of withholding detailed plans the state was seeking.

The decision came just days after Kinder Morgan, a Houston-based company, scrapped plans to build a natural-gas pipeline connecting the Albany area to Massachusetts.

In a letter to the Constitution Pipeline backers, DEC Chief Permit Administrator John Ferguson said the state agency had requested site-specific plans that showed how deep the 30-inch pipeline would be at each of the 251 streams the pipeline would cross. The agency never received that analysis, Ferguson wrote.

The Constitution investors pushed back Monday, saying they "did not refuse to provide a comprehensive analysis of pipe depth."

"Completely contrary to NYSDEC's assertion, we provided detailed drawings and profiles for every stream crossing in New York, including showing depth of pipe," the company wrote.

DEC spokesman Sean Mahar said the agency's letter "outlined a number of failures of the applicant to present adequate information for the state to determine New York's water quality standards would be met."

Those opposed to the pipeline included a network of opponents of large-scale hydraulic fracturing, the technique paired with natural-gas drilling that Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration banned in late 2014.

Some, now, are focusing their efforts on other pipeline projects, including the Algonquin natural-gas pipeline project that cuts through Westchester and Rockland counties.

The project is already underway in New York and three other states, and the Cuomo administration's bid to halt construction in New York was rejected by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last month.

In a letter sent earlier this month to FERC Secretary Kimberly Bose, 38 state lawmakers asked the federal commission to halt construction of the pipeline so the state can complete a safety analysis of the project and its proximity to the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, Westchester County.

"We demand that FERC respect New York's authority and jurisdiction in this matter and stop construction of the (Algonquin) project immediately until the State's independent safety analysis is completed," reads the letter, which was organized by Assemblywoman Sandra Galef, D-Ossining, and Sen. Tony Avella, D-Queens.



What's Happening When

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

April 30, Sat, 10am-2pm, **Croton Earth Day Celebration at Vassallo Park.** Volunteer to help at our outreach table to showcase the Riverlovers. Call Warren for details.

May 7, Sat, **Riverkeeper's Annual Riversweep.** Daria and Warren will be co-captains at Georges Island Park. Contact one of them to sign up and help clean up.

May 14, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Vance Gilbert.** Great performer with a combination of humor, classics & originals. 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 at 6:45pm. Info: www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or 914-946-1625.

May 19, Thurs, 7pm, **Sources & Impacts of Microplastic Pollution,** with EPA's Joshua Kogan, at Beacon Sloop Club clubhouse, 2 Flynn Dr, Beacon.

May 20, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Riverlovers' Cynthia Andersen will present an illustrated talk on "American Impressionism." Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

The Wind Energy Myth

"Wind energy is too expensive. It's a nice idea, but it just isn't economically viable." That's just a myth!

Let's look at the facts. The claim that wind energy is too expensive is out-of-date propaganda. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average normalized price of wind in the U.S. during 2014 was 2.35¢ per kilowatt-hour, below the wholesale price from the grid during that year, and competitive with electricity from natural gas.

Plus, that's just the financial cost of the technology. When we use more clean energy, we also pay less to treat kids suffering from asthma attacks caused by air pollution from coal plants. We pay less to Middle Eastern dictators for their oil supplies. And we pay less for the myriad other devastating economic and human impacts of climate change.

Let's look at the numbers. The U.S. Department of Energy also shows that increased wind power development in the U.S. could result in a net savings of \$149 billion by 2050 as average fossil fuel prices go up and aging plants and other infrastructure have to be replaced.

Scientists also project that using more wind and less fossil fuels will bring future benefits in 2050, including:

- Fourteen percent reduction in cumulative greenhouse gas emissions, which will save \$400 billion in avoided global damages

- Over 21,700 avoided premature deaths
- Twenty percent less water consumption in the U.S. electric industry sector
- Upwards of 600,000 wind-related jobs by 2050
- Increased fuel diversity, making the electric sector 20 percent less sensitive to changes in natural gas price.

That's a different picture Facts are decidedly better than myths for decision-making.

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 2016 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, River-lovers' 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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
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):		
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: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

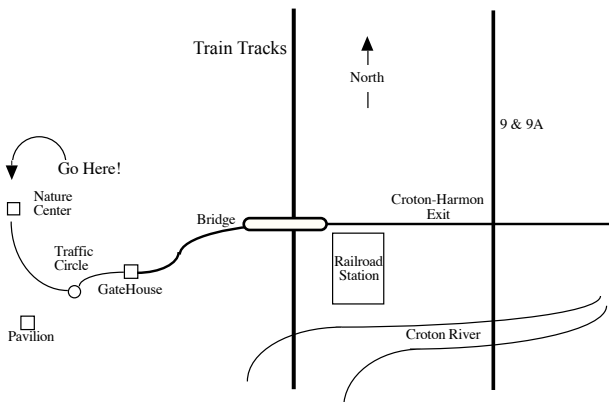
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck with Cynthia Andersen's presentation on "American Impressionism"



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, May 20, 2016

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center