



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 11, November 2007

New Ideas For Riverlovers

by Cynthia Andersen

We had an interesting and productive brainstorming session at this month's Potluck. Gunnar's column lists all the creative ideas that were discussed to give Riverlovers a spark of life. I myself became inspired over the weekend on a long drive with Gunnar up to Kingston. Many people ask me before an upcoming Potluck if we are having any speakers. Lately, I have had to say "No" as we are still in a planning stage.

At this month's Potluck we all questioned what Riverlovers' purpose should be. We even decided to ask Clearwater to give us a special mission or task. Well, it dawned on me this weekend that the more we know about our Hudson River, the more we will be able to be an effective instrument for change and the more we will be able to attract new members to our organization.

Research is the key to knowledge and I propose that each of us choose a topic related to environmentalism, do the research and present it to the group at our Potlucks. It can be in the form of a talk, reading from notes, a more formal paper or my latest love—a PowerPoint presentation. You can even arrange a field trip for the group. I would be happy to present the first PowerPoint presentation. My topic is: *WHAT IS AN ESTUARY?* I think I can have it ready for the December Potluck. Robin came up with a great holiday idea for December which Gunnar will elucidate in his article.

Education is one of the most important aspects of environmentalism for Clearwater, as we learned at the Clearwater Annual Gathering last month. New executive director Jeff Rumpf is interested in my Hudson River School of Painting PowerPoint presentation. Clearwater is training new teaching interns, and the art history of the Hudson River is but one of the topics he would like to see them learn about.

There are many topics that we as a group can research to increase our database of knowledge. Try to remember why you joined Riverlovers in the first place. Were you concerned about the pollution in the river; boating on the river; pedestrian access to the river; condo crawl; etc., etc., etc.??? Let's put our minds to work and teach each other about what aspect of the river interests each of us. Warren has become interested in kayaking and I suggested that he organize a kayaking trip for us in the spring. Warren will have to do some research on tides, among other things. If you haven't got a clue what you can do, give me a call and I will give you an assignment as well. Happy ideating!

October Potluck Brainstorming

by Gunnar Andersen

After a comforting Potluck dinner we settled down to the business at hand. We all felt the need to come up with ideas to invigorate the organization and so we brainstormed.

Practical matters were discussed: encouraging members to access our newsletter *CURRENTS* electronically which will help reduce our monthly costs; changing our Potluck date back to the second Friday of each month for various scheduling reasons; Beverly offered to call members to encourage them to attend meetings and Kirsten suggested we post our activities with *Craig's List*.

Robin put forth a plethora of creative ideas: Contact Clearwater to see if they had a special project for Riverlovers, a Christmas Holiday party replete with songsters and stocking stuffers. Robin has been involved with various committees who are working on moving our Nature Center and she will be following up on this and reporting to us. Robin also suggested contacting Teatown to see if we could work in conjunction with them. Cynthia suggested showing *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH*, and I will be looking into the feasibility of this to make sure we are not violating any copyright laws.

On February 9 we will be working with Scott Williamson as hosts for the yearly EAGLE WATCH. This event was a great success last year. We served bread and soup to the cold and hungry eagle watchers. A great time was had by all.

Steps To Safe Food

Unsafe imported food products have been in the news quite a bit recently. Here are some suggestions to protect against them.

Buy local. There are several ways to buy produce, meat and poultry that are produced locally. You'll get fresher foods, strengthen the local economy and help the environment as well, because transportation is reduced. Look up www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/map.htm to find farmers' markets in your community or area, and what their dates and schedules are.

You can also join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm program, and have locally-grown food delivered weekly throughout the growing season. Check out www.localharvest.org to find a CSA farm near you. Many

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“Swim For The River”—Part III

by Cynthia Andersen

I know you have all been anxiously awaiting this third installment of the *Swim for the River* series, so here it is. We have accompanied Chris Swain as he has swum the Hudson River from Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondacks (on New York State's highest mountain). For half its length of 315 miles, the Hudson is a tidal estuary; one of the longest in the world. Estuaries are bays, harbors, river deltas or marshes in which freshwater from rivers mixes with salt water from the ocean. Protected from the big waves of coastal storms, estuaries are an ideal home for fish, crabs, plants and other aquatic organisms. Estuaries are often important fish nurseries or spawning grounds.

The Hudson estuary, being long and narrow, is unique. It is a long narrow valley that was inundated 14,000 years ago when the oceans rose at the end of the last ice age. Geologists sometimes call it a "drowned river". The sea flooded the valley bottom, creating a long fjord or finger of ocean reaching far inland. Fresh water draining from the Adirondacks and the surrounding watershed mixes with the salt water. Ocean tides reverse the flow of the river approximately every six hours.

The widest point of the Hudson estuary is three and a half miles at Haverstraw Bay, which is large and shallow. Striped bass, American shad, white perch, tomcod, and Atlantic sturgeon can be found there, 45 miles from the ocean. Plankton, a microscopic organism and the base of the food chain, is found in Haverstraw Bay. Atlantic fisheries are supplied by stocks that spawn and grow there. Plankton die out from hot water. Indian Point, which is constantly putting out hot water into the river, is killing off plankton.

As we know, by mid 20th century the Hudson River was so polluted that various species of fish such as the sturgeon, died out. People started to wake up and environmental law was born when there was a seventeen year legal battle to stop Con Ed from installing a pumped-storage hydroelectric plant on Storm King Mountain. This battle created the basis for preventing environmental damage rather than simply responding to damage already done.

Much destruction to the river was done when General Electric discharged PCBs into the Hudson; when General Motors dumped paint from its auto plants into the river; when Anaconda Wire and Cable Company discharged chemicals and metal filings into the river; when many other polluters added oil, chemicals and raw sewage into the river.

Organizations such as Riverkeeper brought suits against the Pennsylvania Central Railroad by invoking the 1886 Rivers and Harbors Act. The 1970 National Environment Policy Act and the first Earth Day was held in 1970. In 1972, the Water Pollution Control Act governed what can be discharged into any regulated body of water; required state-of-the-art technology to reduce pollution and thermal discharges, and provided citizens the right to sue those who violated it. In 1980, the Superfund Law allowed the EPA to clean up threats to public health and bill the polluter. The law established a fund for cleanup (about 900 sites so far), as well as for containment, litigation and reimbursement. Sadly, the current administration is letting the fund dry up.

It is no surprise that there have been setbacks under President George W. Bush. There was the rollback of the New Source Review, an amendment to the Clean Air Act that required EPA approval for expansion of industrial operations that pollute. EPA administrators have cut back on spending and have not sought reauthorization of Superfund taxes. These taxes were on domestic crude oil and imported petroleum and on the profits of corporations earning more than \$2 million a year. The Superfund budget has decreased from the equivalent of \$1.8 billion in 1993, paid by polluters, to \$1.2 billion today, paid by individual taxpayers. Enough is enough!

Sad Transportation Numbers

Transportation is one of the biggest causes of global warming pollution in the U.S. Our inefficient use of roadways and public transportation are only part of the problem, however. Look at some of these numbers:

239 million cars and light trucks are on our roads nowadays. In 2006, they traveled 2.7 trillion total vehicle miles. That represents a 160% increase in the amount of miles driven in the U.S. since 1970.

\$66.3 billion is the amount spent by local, federal and state governments on U.S. highways in 2005. Remember, we represent less than 5% of the world's population.

Of the world's global warming pollution from vehicles, we contribute a 45% share, and 28% of the overall U.S. total comes from transportation.

To date, 15 states have adopted California's global warming pollution limits on cars. Finally, the American Big Three car companies (GM, Ford and Chrysler) have joined a partnership calling for a U.S. national cap on global warming emissions.

In contrast, the number of federal bills passed to cap and reduce U.S. global warming pollution from all sources is zip, zero, and zilch. Where's our leadership? Out to lunch, it seems.

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of them are organic, and you get fresh food at a lower cost than from the supermarket or grocery.

Check labels and signs. Look for the product's country of origin. Examine the labels carefully, as some of them may be counterfeit. You may want to avoid products from countries that have recently had significant safety problems. Unfortunately, required labeling on some products has been delayed until 2008. Some stores give you more information than others about food sources.

Check recall lists. Go to www.recalls.gov to get connected with lists of the latest recalls of everything from food and medicine to motor vehicles. Bookmark this page in your web browser and check it regularly to stay informed.

Be an advocate for safe food and consumer rights. Demand changes in trade agreements to remove restrictions that prevent the U.S. from holding food imports to our own high (but poorly inspected) level of safety standards. Let your representatives know that you want to be protected.

Pay your dues—support our river!
\$15 Individual & \$20 Family



What's Happening When

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

Nov 3, Sat, 1pm, **History Tour of the Point**. Meet at Nature Center and ride in a van around to the several areas of interest at Croton Point. Info: 862-5297.

Nov 7, Wed, 7pm, **Ferry Sloops meeting at Croton Point Nature Center**. Share the beauty of the river with our sister non-profit environmental organization and sailing group. Inspire people to appreciate and protect the Hudson.

Nov 10, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring John Gorka**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

Nov 11, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Open House** at Croton Point Nature Center. Meet and learn from your local archaeological organization. Info: 862-5297.

Nov 16, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the third Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Follow up on the events and activities laid out at our Fall kick-off Potluck. Check our website for the latest info, at www.riverlovers.org.

Nov 17, Sat, 1pm, **Pruning the Point**. Meet at Nature Center and help trim tree branches while they are slowly drifting into dormancy. Work gloves and tools provided. Info: 862-5297.

Dec 1, Sat, 1pm, **Those Amazing Animal Tracks**, at Nature Center. Learn shapes, habitats and adaptations of animals found at Croton Point. Info: 862-5297.

Fighting Global Warming

Here are some things you can do, as suggested by Environmental Defense and others, and compiled by Connie Hogarth for publication in the Beacon Sloop Club *Broadside*, from where it was shamelessly lifted.

Recycle, and buy minimally packaged goods.

Wash clothes in cold or warm water, not hot water, and wash only full loads. If you can dry on an outside line, that's better than a dryer, which uses a large amount of energy.

Install low-flow showerheads, so you use less water.

Run the dishwasher only when it's full, and don't use heat to dry to dishes.

Replace as many incandescent light bulbs as possible with compact fluorescent bulbs. Save money and energy.

Replace old appliances with more modern energy-efficient models. Look for Energy-Star labels and read them.

Adjust your thermostat lower in winter (you've got all those clothes, so why don't you wear them?). Raise the setting in summer, so you're comfortable rather than chilly.

Plug air leaks in windows and doors to reduce drafts and increase energy efficiency.

Walk, bike, carpool, combine errands and trips, or use public transportation as much as possible.

Buy locally produced food, and help to reduce our nation's oil consumption. Nearby farmers' markets minimize food transportation costs.

Share these simple steps with friends and family, and increase awareness of what can be done at home.

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

November Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Gunnar Andersen, Bill Flank

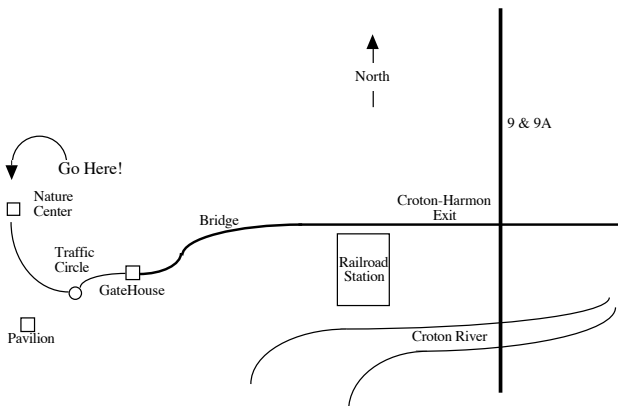
Holiday Season Potluck



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, November 16, 2007

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center