



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 21, Number 11, November 2008

## Riverlovers Doings

by Gunnar Andersen

The October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting began with a review of the upcoming trips: the tour of the Charles Point incinerator will have passed by the time that you read this, but there may be space left on the November 22<sup>nd</sup> tour of the Millwood water treatment plant.

We made several scheduling decisions. We will once again participate in the annual EagleFest which will occur on February 7, 2009. Last year we served bread and soup to volunteers working at the EagleFest as well as a few participants who wandered up to the Nature Center. We will do the same this year. Another event that we would like to repeat is a showing of the film "Swim for the River". This time we would like to show it at a larger venue like the library. Gunnar will work on scheduling this event.

There will be "Third Friday" potluck/meetings in November, January, March, April and May. At the January meeting we will start the planning for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Shad-Fest (which will occur on May 17, 2009). Don't miss a chance to get in early on the planning! At the April meeting we will invite a member of the Clearwater to discuss the projects that Clearwater is involved in and how we can work more closely with them.

Riverlovers' annual contribution to Clearwater was discussed. It is a tradition that we would like to continue but we are unsure how much we are able to contribute this year. A decision was put off until next meeting.

## Riverlovers Annual Clearwater Sail

by Robin Fox

The weather was perfect for the Riverlovers annual Clearwater sail. We left from the dock at Randy King's Marina shortly after 6pm. As soon as we had made way down river a bit, the seining net was tossed overboard. The catch was sparse with the best critter being a lovely female blue crab. After admiring her for a bit, we huffed, puffed, heaved and hoed the mainsail up the mast. It's always exhilarating to watch the sail rise -- and to be a part of the effort. With the engine off, we sailed -- slowly, under light wind, just south of Randy's docks.

The sun set behind gold-rimmed clouds as we began to eat. Although everyone was asked to bring their own picnic, Terry Arnold, who seldom goes anywhere without food for

the multitudes, brought two trays of tasty macaroni and cheese PLUS two cakes -- all cooked in her solar oven. A bountiful feast!

After the traditional "silence," the whole crew broke into song! They shared the guitar, held the songbook for each other, and belted out many favorites. Even the Captain joined in. It was fun to share their pleasure in the music.

Soon the stars began to appear. And then, most amazingly, the moon rose...full and orange-faced. It hung in glowing glory. As it cleared the horizon, it slowly turned brilliant and white. Moonlight guided the boat to the dock, and us to our cars.

## Millwood Water Treatment Plant Visit

We're going Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and we're meeting at Millwood at 10:00am at the front door. They specially arranged a Saturday, when only one person is on duty, so we can only have a small group up to about 8 people. Visitors need to show a photo ID. Bill Chestnut, who is a water treatment plant specialist and has done training there, will co-host the tour.

We've got the Flanks, the Andersens, Beverly, Robin and Bill Chestnut, but we could fit in one or two more if you call Bill Flank quickly. This state-of-the-art plant makes some of the best water in the world, and neighboring communities have been buying in. If enough people are interested, maybe we can schedule another visit later on. Let Bill know.

If you come down Route 9A and head east on Route 133 from Ossining, there's a light at the intersection with Route 100. Bear left on Routes 133 and 100, pass under the Parkway, then quickly make the next right at the next light onto Campfire Road (just opposite the entrance to the northbound Taconic Parkway). About 100 yards up Campfire Road, make a left into the driveway leading to the parking area in front of the Millwood Treatment Plant.

## Who Hates America Now?

"If there is a country that has committed unspeakable atrocities in the world, it is the United States of America. Who are they now to pretend that they are the policemen of the world, the ones that should decide for the people of Iraq what should be done with their government and their leadership?"

*Nelson Mandela*

## The Burning Question

We were curious, so we checked it out. The Wheelabrator Westchester Waste-to-Energy Process is indeed impressive. It's described as a dependable, environmentally safe municipal solid waste disposal facility for Westchester County that generates clean electricity for sale to Con Edison. They process up to 2250 tons a day from 35 local communities, and they welcome tour groups like Riverlovers.

Here's how they do it. Incoming trucks, after inspection, deliver the trash to an enclosed reception area under negative pressure so odors don't leak out. Overhead cranes lift the trash up to one of three feed hoppers, and inside each boiler there is an inclined revolving metal grate that slowly moves the trash through the combustion process. Temperatures can exceed 2500°F in order to allow complete combustion. Air is drawn in from the receiving building, to maintain the negative pressure that controls the dust and smells.

Surrounding the grate systems are huge power boilers designed to recover the thermal energy released during combustion. This energy is recovered in the form of high-pressure steam, which is then converted into electrical energy in the turbine generator. When the plant is running at full capacity, it can generate over 60 megawatts, which is sold to Con Edison and is enough to supply the needs of 53,000 homes. Warren observed that the generating part of the plant was remarkably similar to what he worked on for Con Edison in New York City.

Emissions are controlled using dry scrubbers, or spray dryer absorbers, to remove acid gases, heavy metals and organic pollutants. Fabric filter baghouses collect the particulates, and chemical reduction is used to control ozone-forming nitrogen oxides. In addition, activated carbon absorbs mercury vapor and trace organic pollutants.

After the garbage is completely processed, the remaining ferrous metals are separated out and recovered from the ash residue, resulting in a reduction in trash volume of more than 95%. The remaining ash ends up in a lined and covered landfill, although efforts are now being made to recycle it for other uses, like paving material.

Thanks, Jan, for arranging this tour for Riverlovers. It was quite an education, and it answered a lot of questions about what happens to our trash.

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## The Power Of Being Green

What if every home in New York City replaced 75% of their regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs? The energy saved would be enough to power all the city's subways and light all the train stations. Wouldn't that be a powerful ploy?

And then if just one home in 10 used Energy Star-rated appliances, that would be like planting millions of trees. In fact, it would amount to 1,700,000 acres of new trees. That would really be a powerful green message, wouldn't it! It goes to show you that it doesn't take that much to be green.

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

## Poor Areas Lag in Enviro-Justice

Undercover federal investigators have determined that EPA has not enforced the only law on the books restricting the export of U.S. electronic waste. As a result, hazardous materials continue to wind up in unsafe recycling operations in the poorest parts of the developing world.

The Government Accountability Office report supports international groups, some members of Congress, and a few responsible electronics companies that have urged tougher recycling laws to ensure that an ever-growing wave of old electronic discards is recycled and disposed of safely.

Posing as waste buyers, investigators found 43 U.S. electronics recyclers willing to violate the law and sell wastes for export to developing Asian countries. Workers there are exposed to hazardous materials like lead during recovery operations. Some of the recyclers hypocritically tout their environmentalism in ads and on their websites.

The Government Accountability Office believes its study discovered only a small part of the illegal trade in electronic waste, and urged EPA to toughen enforcement and broaden its oversight of electronic waste recycling operations. Unfortunately, the agency is currently operating under highly politicized leadership and is not expected to do anything any time soon. On the other hand, change is coming.

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## 400 Years Ago Along The Hudson

By October 1608 the Native American population was well established in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Shell mounds at Croton and Denning's Points have been dated to between 4000 and 6000 BCE. It has been estimated that as many as 12,000 people lived in the valley between Albany and the sea at the time of first European contact.

Although there may have been visits by a few individual traders and coastal vessels, it is generally agreed that the majority of the inhabitants were unaware of Europeans and untouched by European culture. The Native Americans were distributed in small villages occupied by individual tribes or clans, primarily affiliated with the Mahicans and the Lenni Lenapes, both Algonquian-speaking groups. An occasional foray from their upstate home base was made by Mohawk raiding parties, who were part of the Iroquois League.

Houses were made by bending hickory saplings and covering them with bark. Groups regularly migrated with the seasons. They lived by hunting, fishing, and the farming of maize and beans, as well as the gathering of nuts and berries in season. They were stewards of the land, because they returned to the same areas year after year, and they used them sustainably. We could learn much from their practices.

*Adapted from the October issue of the  
Beacon Sloop Club's Broadside newsletter*

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## Quote Without Comment

"Eating local food, supporting local land trusts, pushing local governments to assist farms and investing in open space will be critical if we are to avoid the type of destructive sprawl that has overwhelmed parts of our state.... We need to protect and preserve open space here in the Hudson Valley—it's absolutely, critically important to our future."

*U.S. Congressman Maurice Hinchey*



# What's Happening When

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

Nov 1, Sat, 8pm, guitar virtuoso **Derek Trucks & Band at the Paramount Theater in Peekskill**. Tickets: 1-877-840-0457. Info: 914-739-2333 or [www.paramountcenter.org](http://www.paramountcenter.org).

Nov 8, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring The Kennedys & Mustard's Retreat**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance (available via [www.BrownPaperTickes.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickes.com) or [walkaboutclearwater.org](http://walkaboutclearwater.org) or 1-800-838-3006), or \$20 at door. \$15 at door with student ID, \$10 children 6-12, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: [www.walkaboutclearwater.org](http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org) or call 914-242-0374.

Nov 8-9, Sat-Sun, 10am-4pm, **Public Tours of the Half Moon in Newburgh**. Admission \$5 for adults, \$3 for children over 12.

Nov 14, Fri, 8pm, **Judy Collins with Tom Paxton at the Paramount Theater in Peekskill**. Tickets: 1-877-840-0457. Info: 914-739-2333 or [www.paramountcenter.org](http://www.paramountcenter.org).

Nov 21, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers "Third Friday" Holiday Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Celebrate the season & prepare for our EagleFest participation. Check our website for the latest info, at [www.riverlovers.org](http://www.riverlovers.org).

Nov 22, Sat, 10:00am, **Riverlovers special tour of Millwood Water Treatment plant**. See story for more details, or call Bill at 238-8240.

## Yucca Mountain Filing Contested

The Department of Energy recently submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an 8600-page application to build the world's first geological repository for high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The NRC will spend three months assessing the application's completeness, and it will need four years to fully examine the construction application, according to the agency.

The Department of Energy also provided to the NRC 3,600,000 documents and more than 30 million pages of material, all of which is now on the NRC website. The repository is expected to cost \$80 billion, and it could open in 2020 at the earliest, according to DOE.

However, missing from consideration is a key standard needed by NRC to review the construction license application. What is needed is a standard for radiation exposure to protect future generations. A standard developed earlier by EPA was thrown out by a federal court. Although EPA pro-

posed a modified radiation exposure standard in 2005, the agency has yet to finalize it.

Nevada residents and officials strongly oppose the site, and the state has told NRC it will file some 500 technical objections to the application. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid continues his opposition, calling the application "shoddy at best" and claiming that the design was "only 35% complete." At this rate, hell could freeze over before this is finished, and that might not be a bad thing.

### 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 2008 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

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 |
| Secretary:             | Cynthia Andersen | 432-3112 |
| 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](http://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: Gunnar Andersen, Robin Fox

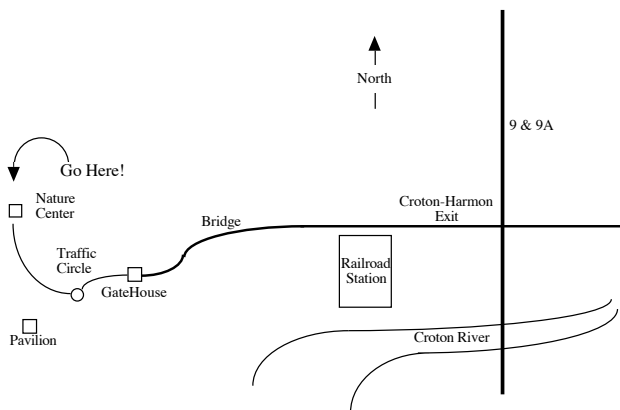
## Riverlovers "Third Friday" Holiday Potluck



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



**Friday, November 21, 2008**

**6:30pm**

**Croton Point Nature Center**