



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 23, Number 11, November 2010

Message From The President

“Autumn” in the Hudson Valley! We are blessed in this area with the gorgeous colors of the fall foliage. I plan to have more outdoor activities to enjoy the fall colors.

But first, oops! I scheduled the second kayak trip for Sunday Oct. 9, but Oct. 10 was Sunday. Sorry for the confusion. Then we had a slight glitch. The company that rents the kayaks was closed, due to shorter hours. I didn't want to disappoint so I called Hudson Valley Outfitters in Cold Spring, who were open. We had a wonderful kayak trip in Foundry Cove just south of the train station. This was on the Hudson River so it was “a little wavy” with the power boats speeding by. All these waves pushed a lot of trash against the rocks, so as we hugged the shore, Beverly Dyckman collected a large bag of debris. Thanks, Beverly!

The walk in the Hudson Highlands Gateway Park was a little hilly but worth the effort. There are several marked trails with colored metal plates attached to the trees denoting the various trails (red, blue, yellow, and white).

Eric Marshall and I walked the Annsville Creek trail (red) to the Upland trail (blue) in a clockwise loop. This was longer but had gentler hill climbing. We saw beautiful scenery and rock formations. The highlight was the Hudson overlook spur. This spot had views of the Annsville tidal area and the Hudson River. During the Revolutionary War, this and other hilltops were used to light signal fires. The fire pit is still there. One needed a trail map to get around, so I made up copies of it and hand-colored the various trails. I left extra copies in the sign-in box with a reminder to please return them for other hikers.

Let's go for a walk at Teatown Lake Reservation on Sunday, November 14th at 1 pm. This seems to be a favorite of the Riverlovers. The address is 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY 10562, north and west of the Taconic State Parkway Route 134 exit.

For the November 19th meeting we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Potluck with all the trimmings. Come one, come all. Call me to coordinate food and arrangements.

Anyone want to try Hudson Highlands Gateway Park on Sunday, November 21st at 1 pm? We will bring it up on November 19th at the Thanksgiving Potluck.

For the December 17th meeting we will discuss, among other items, our annual contribution to Clearwater. For the winter I will see if we can show more environmental movies. And Eagle Fest is coming in February!

Walkabout's 23rd Season Opens

The twenty-third season of the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse started with the one-and-only Cheryl Wheeler who sang and told stories to a delighted full house. The next Coffeehouse evening—Saturday, November 13—features the amazing duo, Maura and Pete Kennedy. Their voices are fabulous, and their musicianship without parallel. Their press release refers to them as “...the Energizer bunnies of the folk/rock world.” Saturday, December 11, Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse will host the perennial favorite Phil Ochs Night. The performers include Magpie, Joe Jencks, John Flynn, Nancy Tucker, Sonny Ochs, and Pat Wictor.

The Coffeehouse starts the new year with a performance by Guy Davis, on Saturday, January 8th. Guy is the very best bluesman and storyteller around. Saturday, February 12th, our neighbor Tom Chapin is the Coffeehouse performer. An evening spent with Tom is a wonderful adventure all over the world, through all ages. On Saturday, March 12 Seamus Kennedy takes the Coffeehouse stage, Seamus is new to us. His show promises, “...a master showman of exceptional musical skills and unmatched rep- artee.” Sounds good! Priscilla Herdman with Max Cohen on guitar, and Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen will perform Saturday, April 9th. Priscilla and Cindy have performed together with Anne Hills for many years. All three of the artists have solo careers. We are lucky to have this grouping of marvelous musicians performing together and individually for us. We close our season on Saturday, May 14th with the incomparable, award winning, long-time Walkabout friend, John McCutcheon. A McCutcheon concert is NOT to be missed!

As always, the concerts start at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm for open seating. The Walkabout Clearwater Chorus “Teachabout” begins at 6:45pm. The concerts take place in Asbury Hall at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY. Ticket prices vary and can be bought on line through BrownPaperTickets.com. For information and directions check the Walkabout website at: WalkaboutClearwater.org, or call 914-242-0374.

Please be sure to post the enclosed flier—proceeds from these concerts go to support Clearwater.

Pay your dues now—support our river!

\$15 Individual & \$20 Family

First-Ever Truck Limits

In response to the recent joint EPA-National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announcement on emission limits for trucks, the National Resources Defense Council issued a statement saying that clean truck standards would cut America's fuel costs, pollution and oil dependence

Long-haul tractor trailers, city buses, delivery vehicles and work trucks are on their way to emitting less air pollution and running more efficiently, based on the first-ever fuel efficiency and pollution-reduction standards for medium and heavy trucks, to be jointly issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The standards include improvements for model years 2014 to 2018. Medium and heavy trucks consume 20 percent of the oil used in the transportation sector and emit about 20 percent of the transportation sector's pollution, yet represent only 4 percent of the vehicles on the roads. Trucking in the United States has increased by more than 50 percent since the early 1990s and today the nation depends on trucking for 70 percent of its shipping needs.

Here is a statement by Luke Tonachel, clean vehicles expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council:

"Heavy trucks and buses are the energy hogs of America's roadways—but they don't have to be. With more efficient engines, aerodynamic bodies and cleaner fuels, our nation's truck fleets can run cleaner and cheaper. These new standards will save truck owners and consumers money, while creating jobs and reducing pollution in the process.

"Every time the price of oil increases it sends shockwaves through the economy, with truck owners having to pay more for fuel, leading them to pass on higher shipping costs to the consumer. Using less fuel will make those shockwaves less damaging to everyone's wallet.

"President Obama did the right thing by encouraging the creation of these standards, but today's proposal should be strengthened further to maximize the environmental, security and economic benefits. The National Academies have shown that cost-effective, clean-vehicle technologies exist that can go beyond the EPA and DOT proposal and more than double the fuel and pollution savings."

BP's Gulf Mess Still There

According to Inter Press Service, massive slicks of weathered oil were clearly visible near Louisiana's fragile marshlands in both the East and West Bays of the Mississippi River Delta during an overflight that included an IPS reporter on October 23rd. The problem is that, despite this, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has left much of the area open for fishing anyway.

Four days prior, on Oct. 19th, federal on-scene cleanup coordinator for the BP oil disaster, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Paul Zukunft, declared there was little recoverable surface oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

"They are literally shrimping in oil," the crew exclaimed as the plane flew over shrimpers trawling in the oil-covered area. Others remain concerned about the use of toxic dispersants that BP has used to sink the oil.

"Potential ecosystem collapse caused by toxic dispersant use during this disaster will have immediate and long-term

effects on the Gulf's traditional fishing communities' ability to sustain our culture and heritage," Clint Guidry of the Louisiana Shrimp Association told IPS. "This has been an exercise in lessening BP's liability from day one. I think we're moving into a situation where the PR is saying the area is safe to fish and it's safe to eat, but that's not the reality," he said.

Earlier, on the same day IPS spotted the oil, a spotter pilot for Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) had flown over the same area and told Southern Seaplanes there was no oil. "He is the spotter for LWDF and saw that bay, and it is still open," according to IPS. "He should have closed the bay for fishing. So now you can see how sophisticated they are in tracking this. Either this guy is completely incompetent, or has an agenda to keep as much of Louisiana's waters open for fishing as he can, whether there is oil or not. I don't see how he could have flown down there today and not seen it. It's criminal."

The LWDF website has a number to call in order to report oil sightings. When IPS called that number, the call was answered by a BP response call center!

On October 23rd, the Coast Guard claimed that the substance floating in the miles-wide areas of West Bay appeared to be "an algal bloom." Lt. Cmdr. Chris O'Neil said a pollution investigator for the Coast Guard collected samples from the area, and while they had yet to be tested, "based on his observation and what he sees in the sample jars, he believes that to be an algal bloom."

Fishermen who have traveled through and fished in the area over the weekend, however, refuted these Coast Guard claims. "I scooped some up, and it feels like oil, looks like oil, is brownish red like all the dispersed oil we've been seeing since this whole thing started," fisherman David Arensen from Venice, Louisiana, told IPS. "It doesn't look like algae to me. Algae doesn't stick on your fingers, and algae isn't oily," he said.

Dean Blanchard, of Dean Blanchard Seafood Inc. in Grand Isle, Louisiana, spoke with IPS about the Coast Guard claim that the substance was likely algae. "Hell, we got oil coming in here every day, it's all around us, we know what oil is," Blanchard said. "The Coast Guard should change the color of their uniform, since they are working for BP. We've known they are working for BP from the beginning of this thing. None of us believe anything they say about this oil disaster anymore."

A recent month-long cruise by Georgia researchers reported oil on the sea floor that they suspect is BP's. While government officials question whether there is oil on the sea floor, the Georgia scientists say the samples "smelled like an auto repair shop". The research team took 78 cores of sediment and only five had live worms in them. Usually they would all have life, said University of Georgia scientist Samantha Joye, who went on to call the affected area a "graveyard for the macrofauna."

The oil on the floor of the Gulf "is undermining the ecosystem from the bottom up." What's at the surface, despite denials that it's there, is only the tip of a huge "iceberg" of toxic hydrocarbons that's in the Gulf for the long term, unfortunately. It's just one more reason, if we need any more, that convincingly says we need to develop renewable energy resources, and fast, before we reach the point of no return.



What's Happening When

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

Nov 2, Tues, **Election Day**, where every vote counts, especially this year. Vote early, and get your family, friends and neighbors to exercise their responsibility. Lots depends on it!

Nov 13, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse**, featuring the amazing duo, Maura and Pete Kennedy, "...the Energizer bunnies of the folk/rock world." At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets available at www.BrownPaperTickets.com, or at door. Open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: call 914-242-0374 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Nov 14, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers Walk at Teatown Lake Reservation**, 1600 Spring Valley Rd, Ossining. Meet in parking lot at Teatown to hike around the lake.

Nov 19, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Thanksgiving Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Call Warren at (914) 319-3379 to coordinate food & arrangements for our traditional celebration. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Nov 21, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers Hike in Hudson Highlands Gateway Park**. Info at the Thanksgiving Potluck, or call Warren at (914) 319-3379.

Nov 25, Thurs, **Happy Thanksgiving**, not for the past, but for the peace and plenty we hope is in our future.

Indian Point & Closed Cycle Cooling

Indian Point owner Entergy has tried its best to confuse people by conflating closed cycle cooling and cooling towers. In fact, these terms are not interchangeable. Closed cycle cooling encompasses several different technologies, only one of which involves cooling towers. That option is by far the most expensive and intrusive, and the easiest for Entergy to make a case against.

According to DEC's policy document, "*Best Technology Available for Cooling Water Intake Structures*," issued March 4, 2010, cooling towers or "dry closed cycle cooling" is the best technology available for *new* construction. Water use is reduced by 97% and fish kill by 95%. Air evaporation cools the water, which is why towers are needed.

However, for retrofitting *existing* plants, "wet closed cycle cooling" is recommended. This technology uses about 2% to 7% as much water as the current once-through system, but fish kill is reduced by about 95%. Wet closed cycle cooling, sometimes called "mechanical draft," operates very much like your car radiator, and this is a standard technology used in the industry. It is much cheaper and less obtrusive than cooling towers, and in fact is used by Entergy at their Vermont Yankee plant.

Entergy's misleading propaganda pushes a far cheaper alternative (for them, not for the fish) using wedge wires. Not only does that not reduce water usage or thermal pollution, but it was never designed for the huge volume of water that the Indian Point power plant uses. It's merely a cheap way out, so Entergy can maximize their profits while abdicating their responsibilities to the fish and to the rest of us.

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 2010 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:	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		
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: Marilyn Elie, Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

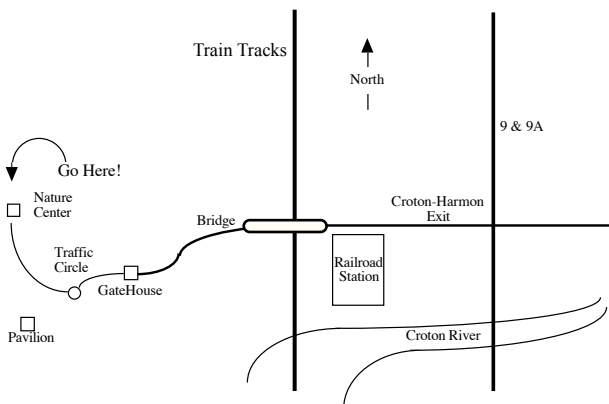
Riverlovers Annual Thanksgiving Potluck



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, November 19, 2010
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center