



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 24, Number 11, November 2011

Message From The President

Riverlovers had a very nice time on the "Walkway over the Hudson." This was the old Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge, and it was a vital link during World War II as it was the only railroad bridge between New York City and Albany.

We are going to have a little hike on Sunday, November 6th at 1pm up to Anthony's Nose. There's a spectacular view at the top. We will meet at Route 9D just north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. On the way up, we will also hike a little of the famous Appalachian Trail nearby, all at a gentle pace.

For Friday, November 18th we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Potluck with turkey and all the trimmings. Coordinate with me (914-319-3379) on what to bring to this popular annual Potluck. The next Potluck, to bow out the year, will be Friday, December 16th just prior to the holidays.

This winter we are going to screen some shows from PBS, such as Power Surge and American Eagle, so stay tuned and watch for details.

The next Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse is on November 12th with Sharon Katz and the Peace Train. Please make sure to post the fliers to help spread the word about some great entertainment (which you too might enjoy), and to help our "mother ship" Clearwater.

The Bottom Line On Fracking

When it comes right down to it, here are the basic questions that need to be asked:

- What does New York plan to do with millions of gallons of fracking wastewater? Municipal treatment plants are not designed to handle the contaminants introduced during the fracking operation.

- How does New York plan to regulate the toxic chemicals used by the gas industry to frack its gas wells? Some of the chemicals they use are known carcinogens.

- The Department of Environmental Conservation is stretched thin due to budget and staff cuts. How does the state plan to monitor the gas industry in New York?

We should learn from the travails of other states, and not let the quick-buck operators fast-talk us into risking our precious water resources and our health.

Sewage Right to Know Law

When there is sewage in the Hudson or other waterways across New York State, there is no state law requiring public notification of its presence. This leaves millions of citizens at risk of contracting waterborne illnesses from exposure to sewage-laden water.

With infrastructure maintenance on the decline and waterborne illness rates on the rise nationwide, this is not acceptable. Many states have passed sewage public notification laws, and it's time for New York to do the same.

Effective sewage notification laws require:

- 1) Frequent water quality monitoring and predictive modeling
- 2) Monitoring of spills and combined sewer overflow (CSO)
- 3) Timely and consistent public notification
- 4) Public Health Agency involvement
- 5) Enforcement
- 6) Annual reporting

Many Sewage Right to Know (SRTK) laws only address accidental releases from infrastructure failures and planned releases for infrastructure repairs. In New York State, we need a SRTK law that will address both of those, as well as wet weather releases and notification at sites that suffer from chronic sewage contamination.

All forms of sewage contamination should trigger public notification:

- 1) Chronic—locations where water quality is always impaired
- 2) Wet Weather-Related—from combined sewer overflows (CSOs), sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and contaminated groundwater
- 3) Accidental—such as a sewer main break or pump station failure
- 4) Planned—sewage bypasses for infrastructure repairs

We have come to expect storm warnings, ozone warnings, traffic alerts, boil water alerts and even pollen warnings. The public also has a right to know when our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams are contaminated with sewage and should be avoided.

Pay your dues now—support our river! \$25 Individual & \$35 Family

It cost \$7.60 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!

Entergy Half-Truths

“You Have a Right to Know,” touts Entergy, the owner of Indian Point, in its latest ad campaign aimed at misleading the public about the supposed safety of the aging, environmentally destructive, and unnecessary nuclear power plant located just 24 miles from New York City. But Entergy hypocritically hides the truth about the vulnerability of Indian Point at every possible turn.

Entergy’s newest manipulation of the truth comes in the wake of the 5.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred in Virginia on August 23, 2011 (the shaking from which was felt at Indian Point and the surrounding area). Entergy has quickly and cynically dismissed any and all potential concerns about earthquake risks at the Indian Point plant.

The public has “a right to know” how Entergy grossly distorts the facts about the risks of operating Indian Point. Don’t be fooled by Entergy’s propaganda. Here is the truth about just three of the distortions in their ad campaign:

Entergy Lie #1: Indian Point can handle earthquakes that “far exceed” 6.1 in magnitude.

After the devastating Honshu earthquake crippled the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan this past March, Entergy made repeated and seemingly continuous public statements that Indian Point was built to withstand a 6.1 magnitude earthquake. Entergy never released any proof to support this, and given the age and fatigued condition of the plant, now almost 40 years old, it is highly questionable whether that number even means the same thing today, after 40 years, and certainly about whether Indian Point could handle a 6.1 event under current circumstances. And now, despite the fact that no new analysis has been performed, Entergy somehow miraculously claims that Indian Point could handle even higher magnitude earthquakes, in fact, earthquakes of magnitude “far exceeding” a 6.1.

This entirely unfounded claim was clearly manufactured to fit Entergy’s needs of the day: when a 5.8 magnitude earthquake, just ticks away from the alleged 6.1 Indian Point is capable of handling, knocks on the backdoor, all of a sudden the story changes again, and Indian Point can handle anything. Next, Entergy might claim that the plant can handle a 9.0 and an attack from Mars at the same time!

The truth is that all evidence indicates that Indian Point is ill-prepared for the worst. NRC’s own recent post-Fukushima inspection reports at the plant revealed as much.

Entergy Lie #2: It can’t happen here.

In the months following the catastrophe at Fukushima, Entergy repeatedly denied the potential for a similar situation ever occurring at Indian Point. For example, one plant rep stated, “it just doesn’t seem very realistic to me.”

This position held no water at all in light of a study by Columbia University seismologists in 2008, which concluded that the area surrounding Indian Point was not, as previously thought, an area of low seismic activity, and that, in fact, it was “quite possible” the region could experience upwards of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake (which would be about 32 times more damaging and severe than what Indian Point could allegedly handle). This study showed that two different earthquake fault lines cross just north of Indian Point, positioning it in pretty much the worst imaginable location for a nuclear plant.

Virginia’s 5.8 quake now confirms that the east coast of the U.S. is not immune to damaging earthquakes. If you were to move the earthquake that occurred—just 200 miles north—and increase its intensity only slightly, the situation could have been a lot more dire, and disastrous.

Entergy Lie #3: It is okay to rely on NRC’s determination that “Indian Point is safe against a range of earthquakes”

Entergy would love to convince the public that because the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) says “Indian Point is safe” that, in fact, the plant “is safe.” In reality, the NRC’s statements are unsubstantiated and can’t be trusted. The NRC is, at best, dismissive of the very real concerns about the risks of earthquakes at Indian Point.

Here’s a prime example: Just hours after promising NY Governor Andrew Cuomo that seismic risk at Indian Point would be a top priority, an NRC representative told the press that NRC was in no rush to analyze the issue “because this is really not a serious concern.” On the contrary, immediate assessment remains critically necessary in light of a September 2010 NRC report which identified Indian Point Unit 3 as having the highest risk for core damage from an earthquake, compared with any other nuclear plant in the entire U.S.

The NRC also refuses to assess earthquake risks in the Indian Point license renewal proceeding. Such a stance is utterly unconscionable, given the fact that science and relevant facts have evolved considerably since the plant was licensed nearly 40 years ago. This “head in the sand” reliance on outdated information and conclusions is irresponsible, to say the least.

It boils down to this: Entergy is once again misrepresenting the facts. Compounded with an utterly indifferent regulating agency, there is major cause for concern about the risks related to possible earthquakes at Indian Point. And this is just one issue in the long list of safety issues surrounding the plant. How many more warnings do we need? The risks of continuing to operate Indian Point heavily outweigh any supposed benefit of the plant, and it’s just not worth it. There are saner alternatives.

(Thanks to Riverkeeper for compiling this information.)

Renewables Are Competitive Now!

There is a newly released United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation.

The IPCC assembled 120 experts from around the world to compile this scientific assessment of the potential of renewable energy sources to mitigate climate change. Lead authors include William Moomaw, Ph.D., professor of international environmental law and director of the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; and Ryan Wisner, Ph.D., staff scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. According to this report, renewable energy has the technical potential to exceed the current global energy demand by a considerable amount, and the economic potential to be more competitive than nuclear power, fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage, and other low-carbon energy options.

What are we waiting for? What does it take to read the handwriting on the global wall?



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 6, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers hike to Anthony's Nose** near the Bear Mountain Bridge to enjoy spectacular views. Meet at Route 9D just north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. Info: Call Warren at 914-319-3379.

Nov 6, Sun, **Standard time resumes.** Reset your clocks.

Nov 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Sharon Katz & The Peace Train with special guest, Abigail Kubeka.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets (\$17.50) available at www.BrownPaperTickets.com, or at door (\$20). 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 18, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Traditional Thanksgiving Potluck** at the Croton Point Nature Center. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Speaking Of Messages . . .

Here's a quote making the rounds on the Internet:

"Remember when teachers, public employees, Planned Parenthood, NPR and PBS were responsible for crashing the stock market, wiping out half of our 401K's, taking trillions in taxpayer-funded bailouts, spilling millions of gallons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico, giving themselves billions in bonuses and paying no taxes?"

Yeah, me neither . . ."

So tell me again who's responsible for de-funding EPA enforcement, and where do their campaign funds come from? Yeah, that's right . . .

EPA Proposes Fracking Regs

Under a court deadline to propose updated standards for hydraulic fracturing, commonly called fracking, the EPA is proposing new regulations aimed at limiting air pollution from oil and natural gas drilling operations. These will be the first standards for wells that are hydraulically fractured, and they result from a lawsuit filed by environmental organizations. The court ruling required final action to be taken by February 28, 2012, and this is a first step.

The proposed regulations will trim emissions of smog-forming volatile organic compounds by about 25%, but in new and updated gas wells using fracturing technology, the discharge reduction will be closer to 95%. Fracking involves the injection of huge quantities of water, along with sand and chemical additives, many of which are toxic, into shale rock formations to release trapped hydrocarbons.

The practice has been tied to an increase in smog pollution in rural areas, such as eastern Wyoming and Pennsylvania, where gas drilling has been booming. EPA estimates the

rules will reduce nationwide emissions of both volatile organic compounds and greenhouse gas methane by 25%. That's long overdue, but it's only a first step.

What's just as important is the rescinding of the removal of these drilling operations from regulation under the Clean Water Act during the Bush administration. This legacy was due to Dick Cheney's efforts behind closed doors, and now we need to clear both the air and the water.

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 2011 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.
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: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

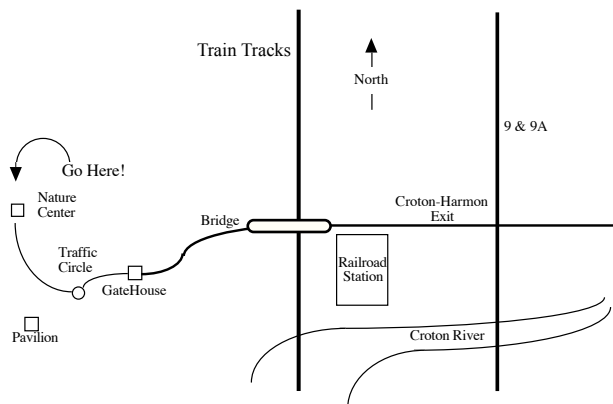
Riverlovers Annual Traditional Thanksgiving Potluck



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, November 18, 2011
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center