



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 27, Number 11, November 2014

Message From The President

As I write this, the fall foliage is very colorful with many trees still with their green leaves. This is the best time to photograph the autumn colors.

Stan Weingast and I went kayaking on a one way trip down the Great Swamp in Putnam County. There was no real drought this late summer, but there was little rain the last few weeks. Beautiful trip, but we encountered 8 beaver dams and 2 deadfalls blocking our progress. We climbed up on the dams and pulled the kayaks over the dams, or scooted over the tops. This was the worst kayak trip, and the best kayak trip, that I have ever done!

When I did this one-way trip in May with the F.R.O.G.S. group there was no problem, in fact there was a brisk current flowing after the Route 22 bridge. Let's do this trip in spring of 2015.

For the October Potluck we screened the Frontline-Nova special "Global Warming—What's Up With Weather?" This documentary describes how man-made carbon dioxide has overloaded the earth's atmosphere, and experts predict the emissions level will triple in the next 100 years. Besides coal, electricity is produced from oil and gas. Then come renewable sources such as hydro, solar, wind and the largest non-fossil source, nuclear power, which makes up 20% of U.S. power.

A control room operator told me that at night the power is at 55%. She said we utilize low-cost coal and nuclear at night nationally, because we need base load. In the morning when the loads go up, we turn on the less efficient units. The documentary also brought out that wind farms have less wind in the summer when loads are higher, and solar panels have very reduced capability when there are even faint clouds in the upper atmosphere.

For the November Potluck we will move to November 14th, the SECOND Friday (Gunnar and I have commitments and it's getting very close to Thanksgiving). As usual, we will meet at 6:30pm in the Croton Point Nature Center. We will screen "The Antarctica Challenge—A Global Warning." This award-winning documentary reveals many startling new scientific revelations such as penguin suicide, new vegetation growing in the world's largest desert, diminishing populations of land animals and marine life, and the dangerously increasing melting of Antarctica's land ice (quoting from the DVD jacket).

Please join us on a walk on Saturday, November 15th at 1pm to Oscawana Island Park in Crugers. We will meet at the A&P parking lot at Route 9A north of Croton. We will carpool into the park. Once there, we will hike either the hill over the railroad tunnel or up into ruins of the former McAndrews estate, passing the race track. Both ways offer great views of the Hudson River. If interested, please confirm with me at 914-319-3379.

As I said, I like to bicycle ride, and I am inviting anyone to explore the North and South County Trailway. There are several places near the Saw Mill Parkway to park your vehicle and to bike ride to the trail. This Autumn, through several visits, I have done the entire South County Trail from Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx to Elmsford near the Cross Westchester Expressway. These two trails are magical, with gradual hills and straightaways as far as the eye can see through leafy canopies. Bicycles are a completely zero-carbon form of transportation. Too bad the U.S. is not like the Netherlands, where bicycles are used extensively!

For the December 19th Potluck at 6:30pm, we will be screening a PBS Nova special "Solar Energy—Saved by the Sun." Can solar power help save the Earth from the ravages of global warming?

For the November and December Potlucks we will be selling solar kits and educational toys for the holiday season. These items were very popular at our outreach table at the Clearwater Revival festival.

For the January 16th Potluck we will be screening "Revenge of the Electric Car." This award-winning film is an answer to the film "Who killed the Electric Car."

For the February 20th Potluck we will be screening another car documentary, a PBS Nova special "Car of the Future—Engineering for the Environment."

In closing, I want to remind everyone that the ever-popular EagleFest is coming in early February. This should be an interesting season. Be part of Riverlovers, bring your friends, and bring your loved ones to our activities. Thanks for your attention, and Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

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

It cost \$9.30 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, and get your friends to join you.

2014-15 Walkabout Coffeehouse Schedule

by Robin Fox

Thank you all for helping to make the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse's 26th season last year a smashing success. We hope we'll see you back with us this month as another great season of acoustic music continues. Our 2014-15 schedule is included below:

November 8: Garnet Rogers
December 13: Josh White, Jr.
January 10: Tom Chapin
February 14: The Boxcar Lilies
March 14: Joe Jencks/Natalia Zukerman
April 11: Joe Crookston/Mustard's Retreat
May 9: Kim & Reggie Harris

Tickets for individual concerts, as well as half-season and whole-season advance sale options, went on sale July 1 at www.BrownPaperTickets.com. To keep up to date, check out www.walkaboutclearwater.org, or better yet, use the url to sign up and join the e-mail list. Bring your friends!

Get To Know The Top 10 Recyclables

Recycling is one of the most important things we can do to preserve our planet. On a daily basis, more than 100 million Americans participate in effectively recycling used and old materials in their household and offices.

Are you one of them? Or are you trying to sort which items you can recycle and which ones belong in the compost or the garbage?

To help you out, the National Recycling Coalition has put together a list of the top ten most important items that should be recycled.

#1: Aluminum This is because aluminum cans are 100 percent recyclable and can also be recycled over and over again. Even better, turning recycled cans into new cans takes 95 percent less energy than making brand-new ones. So how about starting with all those soda and juice cans?

#2: PET Plastic Bottles Americans will buy about 25 billion single-serving bottles of water this year, according to the Container Recycling Institute. Worse yet, nearly 80 percent of those bottles will end up in a landfill. Let's put a stop to that. Making plastic out of recycled resources uses about two-thirds less energy than making new plastic. And because plastic bottles for water, soda and other drinkables, more than any other type of plastic, are the most commonly used type, they are usually the easiest to recycle. PET plastics are easily identified by the number 1 in the logo on the bottom of the container, the familiar three arrows in the shape of a triangle.

#3: Newspaper This is a pretty obvious one. It seems like a no-brainer to set up a recycling bin next to your garbage can for newspaper and any other scrap paper. So why should we recycle paper? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, paper makes up about one-third of the total municipal waste stream in the U.S. That's a whole lot of paper, and since we know that recycling all that paper conserves resources, saves energy, and doesn't clog up the landfills, there's no reason not to do it.

#4: Corrugated Cardboard Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) represents a significant percentage of the commercial

solid waste stream. In 1996, the U.S. generated 29 million tons of OCC or 13.8% of our municipal waste stream. Approximately 90% of that comes from the commercial or non-residential sector, the places where we work. So next time UPS delivers a big box to your office, be sure to break it down and recycle it. (After you've emptied it, of course.)

#5: Steel cans Just like aluminum, steel products can be recycled over and over again without compromising the quality of the steel. We're talking about cans, but maybe you have some steel auto parts or appliances ready for recycling too? More than 80 million tons of steel are recycled each year in North America, and recycling steel saves the equivalent of energy to power 18 million households a year.

#6: HDPE plastic bottles HDPE stands for high-density polyethylene, a common and more dense plastic, which is used for detergents, bleach, shampoo, milk jugs, juice bottles, etc. HDPE plastics are identified by the number 2 in the logo on the bottom of the container, those familiar three arrows in the shape of a triangle. Check the number inside that logo: numbers 1 and 2 are recyclable almost everywhere, but 3 through 7 are only recyclable in limited areas. And don't forget to rinse and clean all of your HDPE containers in the sink. Any remaining dirt or food particles can contaminate the recycling process.

#7: Glass containers Recycled glass saves 50 percent energy versus virgin glass, and recycling just one glass container saves enough energy to light a 100-watt incandescent bulb for four hours. Recycled glass generates 20 percent less air pollution and 50 percent less water pollution, and one ton of glass made from 50 percent recycled materials saves 250 pounds of mining waste. That's pretty impressive!

#8: Magazines and #9: Mixed paper There are so many reasons to recycle all kinds of paper that it makes no sense not to. First, recycled paper saves 60 percent of energy versus virgin paper, and also generates 95 percent less air pollution. Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water. Sadly, though, every year Americans throw away enough paper to build a 12-foot wall from New York to California. Let's work on changing that!

#10: Computers Computers can be recycled in a couple of ways, depending on the state of the machine. Giving old, working computers to friends and family members or donating them to non-profit organizations not only keeps the computer entirely out of the waste stream, but it presents computer access to someone who might not otherwise be able to afford it. Non-working computers can be sent to recycling centers where they are dismantled and valuable components are recovered. See if your community, or a neighboring one, collects electronics for recycling and resource recovery.

Of course, there's also reducing and reusing, and if you choose those, you will have even less to recycle!

Quote Without Comment

According to a recent cover story in *Chemical and Engineering News*, about 40%—that's one billion cubic feet per day—of the natural gas co-generated during oil production fracking operations in the Bakken shale formation of North Dakota is not sold or used. Most of it is flared—burned—as unwanted waste.



What's Happening When

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

Nov 1, Sat, **Cajun Dance with Krewe de la Rue.** Benefit for Beacon Sloop Club & Beacon Food Pantry. Potluck supper 5:30pm, dance 7-10pm (6:30-7, lessons in basic steps). At St. Luke's Parish House, 850 Wolcott Ave, Beacon. Admission \$15. Info: www.beaconsloopclub.org or 914-907-4928.

Nov 8, Sat, 10-11:30am, History Walk with Karen Gell—Walk & Talk at CEIE at Dennings Point, Beacon.

Nov 14, Fri, 6:30pm, (second Fri) **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Screening of a PBS special "The Antarctica Challenge—A Global Warning." More details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Nov 15, Sat, 1pm, **Riverlovers hike in Oscawana Island Park in Crugers.** Meet at A&P parking lot at Route 9A north of Croton and carpool into park. The A&P is just north of Wells-Fargo and Chase banks, and just south of the Montrose exit from Route 9. Call Warren at 914-319-3379 for reservations & info. More details on page 1.

Nov 27, Thu, Celebrate Thanksgiving.

Dec 19, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Holiday Potluck** at Croton Point Nature Center. Screening of PBS Nova special "Solar Energy—Saved by the Sun." More details on page 1. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Holiday Note: At the November & December Potlucks, we'll be selling our popular solar kits and educational toys for the holiday season. Take advantage of the opportunity to do your season's shopping and support our Sloop Club!

Fracking's Environmental Costs

At last, a non-profit organization has researched the true costs inflicted on our environment by our new-found addiction to fracking. The Environment America Research & Policy Center report, *Fracking by the Numbers*, is the first to measure the damaging footprint of fracking to date.

The report measured key indicators of fracking threats across the country, and here's what they found:

- 82,000 fracking wells drilled since 2005
- 250 billion gallons of fresh water used since 2005 (over 3 million gallons per well)
- 360,000 acres of land directly damaged and degraded by fracking since 2005
- 100 million (CO₂-equivalent) metric tons of global warming pollution since 2005
- 2 billion gallons of fracking chemicals used since 2005
- 450,000 tons of air pollution per year
- 280 billion gallons of toxic wastewater created in 2012

Fracking inflicts other damage not quantified in the report: contamination of residential drinking water wells, ruined roads, earthquakes at disposal sites, contamination of groundwater and community drinking water resources, and fouling of effluents from treatment plants not designed to handle such types of toxic pollutants. What's left behind when the wells are played out a few short years later, and the resource extraction corporations have moved on?

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 2015 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.
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, 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!



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		

Web Page: www.riverlovers.org

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

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

November Newsletter Contributors: Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and screening of

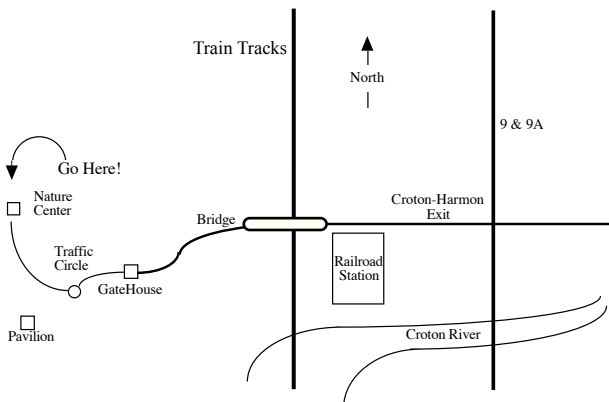
The Antarctica Challenge—A Global Warning



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, November 14, 2014

(Second Friday!!!)

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center