



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 30, Number 11, November 2017

Message from the President

Late October, early November, sunny days in the Hudson Valley. The leaves of the deciduous trees burst into the fall colors: red, orange, yellow, brown, and some green remaining. Gaze across the Hudson River and see the mountains in their beautiful Autumn colors.

We visited the New York Botanical Garden again, on October 13th, to accommodate those who could not visit in September. Cynthia Andersen and I led the group with the advice of Daria Gregg's instructions. We saw the whimsical glass bowls and the towering glass tree in the Mertz Library Museum. At the Edith Haupt Conservatory we marveled at the myriad glass blown objects, inside and outside.

For the October 20th Potluck we had a very large turnout with plenty of good eats. We discussed past and future activities, and we screened a PBS Nature special, "Yosemite". The film brought up that there is an increasing drought from climate change, and the Sequoia trees are losing foliage at an unprecedented rate, in some cases more than half the tree. The trees are reaching a tipping point where the Sequoia trees, which are more than 3000 years old, will not recover.

After the film, Gunnar and Cynthia Andersen showed pictures from their trip to Yosemite. They explained about the smoke from the forest fires that are actually beneficial, by clearing up the ground cover, that would otherwise support larger fires that will go up the tree trunks.

Speaking of climate change, I brought up at the Clearwater meeting, at the Q and A part, the catastrophe in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria, with its 150 mph winds. My wife and I are going to take in hurricane refugees. With more powerful hurricanes predicted due to climate change, what is Clearwater doing about this looming problem? I asked, What are the names of the fossil fuel power plants here in the Hudson Valley? Silence, no answer!

I stated that maybe these three power plants should be closed, not Indian Point. What comes out of the smokestacks of these plants? Between 17% and 19% CO₂, which is 170 thousand to 190 thousand parts per million CO₂. Our global atmosphere went from 320 ppm to 410 ppm CO₂ in my lifetime. These plants produce 2900 megawatts of electricity per hour. These plants also discharge from their smokestacks 46,746,000 tons of CO₂ per year! By our complicity and Clearwater's complicity, we are ignoring this aspect of this overwhelming problem, called Climate Change.

We will visit Storm King Art Center on Monday, October 30th. We will carpool from the Annsville PaddleCenter parking lot at 12 noon. Weekends are very busy. The SKAC is known for its giant outdoor modern art pieces.

Let's hike a section of the Briarcliff-Peekskill Trailway on Sunday, October 29th (rain date Sunday, November 4th) at 12 noon. We will meet at the Super Foodtown on Rt. 9A north of Croton.

For the Friday, November 17th Potluck at the Croton Point Nature Center at 6:30pm, we will screen a PBS Special, "The Great American Eclipse." There is nothing like being on the center-line of a solar eclipse. We will also screen some clips of "Chihuly in the Hotshop." This DVD is a demonstration of art glassmaking.

For the Friday, December 15th Potluck at 6:30pm we will screen a BBC Earth Special, "India—Nature's Wonderland, Part 1." Do Bowline, Roseton, and Danskammer sound familiar?

Come to our meetings, come to our activities. Members and non-members are welcome. Together we can be educated and educate others to protect the Hudson River and save the Earth and its climate for ourselves and future generations.

In Case You Missed It . . .

Our intrepid president (of Riverlovers, that is) traveled halfway across the country to get a few minutes' worth of the complete eclipse of the sun back in August. Here are some interesting tidbits of information about it.

- The Sun is 400 times larger than the Moon.
- The Sun is 400 times farther from the Moon than Earth is from the Moon.
- The Sun and Moon *appear* to be the same size when viewed from Earth.
- When the Moon orbits exactly between Earth and the Sun, we here on Earth experience a total solar eclipse.
- Earth is the only planet in the solar system to experience a total solar eclipse.

Thanks to North River Friends of Clearwater's newsletter, *The Compass*, who got this from spaceplace.nasa.gov

[On August 21st, a total solar eclipse was visible along a narrow path from northwest to southeast America. Here in

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Fracking Arrested In New York!

I want to report some absolutely thrilling news about our efforts to halt New York's production of natural gas after nearly 200 years of polluting activity.

Between 2007-2008, the two years before the environmental group, Toxics Targeting's Marcellus Shale Campaign, was launched, 469 natural gas development wells were reportedly "completed" in New York. This was the state's highest completion rate in twenty years. Fossil fuel firms from all over the world flocked to New York to get in on the natural gas boom.

Since then, however, Toxic Targeting has organized legions of stalwart "Fractivists" and documented hundreds of natural gas extraction fires, explosions, massive toxic wastewater discharges, contaminated drinking water wells and infrastructure hazards.

As a result, this campaign played a key role in prohibiting shale fracking, halting toxic "produced water" dumping into local wastewater treatment plants, requiring clean-up of contaminated well sites and blocking natural gas transport projects.

What All Our Hard Work Has Achieved

All of this hard work has driven New York's fossil fuel extraction industry to the brink of extinction. According to Division of Mineral Resources data, from 2014 to 2017, NOT ONE natural gas development well was reportedly "completed" and put into production anywhere in New York.

That is a mind-boggling drop. New York's natural gas boom has obviously gone totally bust. As a result, natural gas production in New York plunged to the lowest level in nearly 40 years.

Thanks to these dedicated efforts, New York is on the verge of being the first state in the nation to halt fossil fuel production. That would be an unprecedented achievement.

America Got Fracked While New York Did Not

Across America, it is sadly a different story. Environmental groups in other states were unable to replicate our achievements. As a result, shale fracking spread from coast to coast as natural gas production skyrocketed to the highest level ever.

Despite all the promises of a sustainable energy future, the grim reality is that America is more addicted to fossil fuels than ever before, due to shale fracking. A vast fossil fuel infrastructure build-out is underway that will perpetuate that addiction for decades to come, unless it is stopped.

Fortunately, New York remains 100% shale frack-free due to our on-going efforts. Our coordinated campaigns also have played a key role in stopping nearly \$5.0 billion in natural gas infrastructure projects.

With many groups working together, our uniquely effective data research, public policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, coalition building and media outreach campaign packs a wallop unmatched anywhere else in the nation.

Keep Dirty Oil Out Of The Hudson

The extraction of Canadian tar sands and North Dakotan Bakken shale oil has sparked a firestorm of controversy in New York as oil companies have been using our railways and the Hudson River as a means to transport this dirty fuel from the North American heartland to coastal refineries

thousands of miles away. While the Hudson River has for centuries been used to transport goods by barge, including petroleum products, there has never been such a concentrated effort to use the river for crude oil transport.

Right now, there is a bill on the governor's desk, The Oil Barges/Anchorages on the Hudson Bill—A.6825-A(Barrett)/S.5197-B(Serino)—that would enable the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to enhance protections for stretches of the Hudson River targeted for the anchoring of large commercial vessels like oil barges. Can you write the Governor and ask him to sign the bill into law?

Recently, a proposal before the Coast Guard would have allowed 43 new anchorages for massive ships and barges—from Kingston to Yonkers—for crude oil to be stored on the Hudson while vessels wait for space at refineries and transloading facilities, or for price changes. In this proposal, vessels may have had the option to remain at anchor for extended periods of time to wait out low prices on the global market—making the Hudson an inappropriate long-term storage area for crude oil. This expanded congestion of anchorages would have endangered the river with an increase in spills, despoiling of the scenic beauty of the river, and also threaten the survival of critical species, like the Atlantic sturgeon.

A.6825-A/S.5197-B will allow the DEC to establish "tanker avoidance zones" that will give protections to fragile habitat areas, historic riverfront communities and areas where anchorages could present navigation hazards. Since 2012, two companies, Global Partners and Buckeye, have received permits to transload 2.8 billion gallons per year of fracked crude oil from rail to barge at the Port of Albany. This dramatic increase in crude oil shipments has degraded local air quality and endangered environmental justice communities living within mere feet of the facility. This has also made Albany a global epicenter for crude oil transport, though the economic benefits have been minimal.

Send a letter to Governor Cuomo today, telling him you support his signing of A.6825-A/S.5197-B! While the State of New York is preempted by federal rules governing interstate commerce and cannot ban the shipping of crude oil on the Hudson, we can set conditions guiding appropriate anchorage sites that take into consideration the protection of critical estuarine habitat, municipal drinking water supplies, safety along the navigation corridor, and riverfront community character as well.

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the northeast, only a partial eclipse was visible. Warnings to PROTECT YOUR EYES PROPERLY were widely publicized, but guess which president didn't have the good sense to heed them. Hint: It wasn't Warren!

To add a "Quote Without Comment," here's one from Dirk van Norren, an ophthalmic physics professor at the Utrecht University Medical Center: "Frankly, you'd have to be quite an idiot to stare so long into the sun!"

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

Support your Newsletter and the river, and get your friends to join you.



What's Happening When

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

Nov 1, Wed, 7:30pm, **Ferry Sloops Fall Lecture Series: "Lives & Legends of Hudson River Fishes."** At Shattemuc Yacht Club, Westerly Road, Ossining. Presented by Estuary Naturalist Tom Lake. Free admission. Potluck supper at 6:30. Info: www.ferrysloops.org.

Nov 11, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring The Kennedys.** In the Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets \$18.00 at www.walkaboutclearwater.org (until 7:30 a.m. on the day of the concert) and \$23.00 at the door. Students with ID are \$15.00 and children ages 6 to 12 are \$10.00. Open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Sing with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at its informal **Teachabout** starting at 6:45pm. Info: www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Nov 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck Supper** at Croton Point Nature Center. We will screen a PBS Special, "The Great American Eclipse." There is nothing like being on the center-line of a solar eclipse. Info: www.riverlovers.org.

Defeat Dirty Emissions Cheating

The Volkswagen "Dieselgate" scandal that led to huge emissions of harmful diesel particulates and smog pollution could be minor compared to what is happening right now. Congress is considering legislation that would protect the sale and use of "defeat devices," which disable the emission control systems in our cars that remove dangerous air pollution before it goes out the tailpipe.

Urge your members of Congress to block the loop hole that would allow Dieselgate 2.0!

These devices are what VW used to cheat Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions testing on diesel cars. They are also used by amateur racers to increase the performance of their cars and trucks. It's one thing if these modified, highly polluting vehicles are only used at racetracks, but there's ample evidence that these devices are being illegally marketed and used on cars that are driven on our streets on a regular basis, spewing toxic pollution into our communities.

Manufacturers of these dirty devices are pushing Congress to give them free rein to sell their products, and right now, many in Congress are on board! Tell your members of Congress that you do not support the reckless use of dirty "defeat devices" on public roads.

Vehicle exhaust is toxic, so cars and trucks used on public roads must have intact emissions control systems. The EPA estimates this protection prevents up to 2,000 premature deaths, 2,200 hospital admissions, and 19,000 asthma attacks a year.

The Union of Concerned Scientists found a settlement between the EPA and just one of the multiple manufacturers of these defeat devices and they admitted to having sold more than 100,000 devices. The pollution from the dirty defeat devices sold by this single manufacturer would equal *twice* the pollution from the VW Dieselgate vehicles. How many other manufacturers are putting profit over public health? Let's hold this industry accountable.

*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 2018 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:
 Individual \$50 Mariner \$500
 Family \$65 Sailing-Master \$1000
 Contributor \$100 Benefactor \$5000
 Sponsor \$200 Other \$25
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, River-lovers' 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	Warren Lindholm	739-9028
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):		
Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396
President-Emeritus	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112

Newsletter Submissions

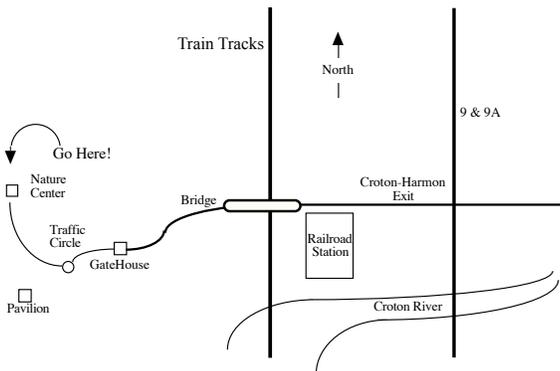
Please send news articles and other items of interest to Riverlovers Currents, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Include your name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted on request.

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: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

Riverlovers Monthly Potluck and Screening of *The Great American Eclipse*



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Friday, November 17, 2017

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center