



# Riverlovers Currents

Volume 25, Number 11-12, November-December 2012

## Message From The President

Ugh! What a storm. I hope everybody is safe and sound! If anybody has to depend on a generator for power but does not have heat, I can help by installing a plug and a receptacle on the electrical line to the boiler. Then one can simply use an extension cord to plug into the generator. When the power is back on, just plug back into the house line to the main box.

Instead of a generator, I have used an inverter to make 300 watts of AC power. An inverter works by converting 12 volts DC from a car battery or a 12 volt battery pack to 120 volts AC for household use. These inverters are available in various power outputs. One has to run the car engine from time to time.

I would like to mention that if people had their own solar panels and wind power generators, there would be some degree of freedom from downed power lines. Something to think about for the future.

Last month, on October 21<sup>st</sup>, we had a wonderful walk at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve led by Bill and Sandy Flank. This is a beautiful park. The parking lot where we met was adjacent to the North County Trailway. After the walk, I rode my bicycle down to the Tarrytown Reservoir. This is a scenic and safe trail to ride. Maybe we can have a Riverlovers group ride next Spring.

The October 19<sup>th</sup> Potluck was a big success, with Andy Hofer giving a great demonstration on various knots which are safe to use and some that are not (they can unravel). Andy demonstrated how to tie the knots using a website called "Animated Knots." He concluded his presentation with magic tricks with knots.

Looking ahead, the Thanksgiving Potluck is Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will have turkey and all the trimmings. We will need many dishes and a turkey to be cooked. I plan to present a talk on Global Warming and what we can do to help.

In December we will continue a recent Riverlovers tradition and join the Clearwater office in Beacon (724 Wolcott Ave.) for a Holiday Potluck on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 9pm. Bring food and drink to share, and bring your instruments and voices to join in the fun. If you need a ride, let me know at my home number or my cell (914-319-3379). This will be quite a potluck!

In January, for our meeting on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. we will have an encore screening of "An Inconvenient Truth." This must-see documentary delivers the message

that global warming is a real and present danger. Arm yourself with the facts, so you and others can act on them.

Mark your calendars for the very popular EagleFest at Croton Point Park on Saturday, February 9, 2013 (inclement weather date Sunday, February 10). Once again Riverlovers will serve soup and bread at the Nature Center for the vendors and volunteers. We will also have an outreach table in the big tent, at this popular venue, to encourage new membership. Help will be needed, so please plan to sign up.

Let's have a Potluck on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm where we will screen PBS Frontline "Climate of Doubt." It shows how organizations that have denied climate change have successfully influenced the public and various elected officials by distortions and outright falsehoods. I myself was very upset at seeing how these organizations are so successful at denial of global warming.

In March we will show either PBS "America Revealed, Electric Nation," a fascinating look at our electric power grid and some answers on renewable power, or "Koyaanisqatsi" (Life out of Balance, from the Hopi language). This is an award-winning film that contrasts the tranquil beauty of nature with the frenzied hum of contemporary society.

Stay warm and safe.

## Fracking And Earthquake Risk

A report by the National Research Council tells us the initial underground fluids injection for hydraulic fracturing poses little risk of causing earthquakes. That's the good news.

Now for the bad news: The report also finds greater risk of earthquakes from underground injection of the resulting wastewater from these fracturing sites as well as other energy-related technologies when they are conducted over extended periods of time.

The report also warns that underground injection of carbon dioxide has the potential to induce earthquakes because of the high volume and pressure involved as well as the length of time material will be injected. However, insufficient information is available to characterize the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> injection because there are no large-scale projects of this type currently in operation.

While earthquakes have been reported by residents living near fracking sites, and seismic events have been recorded by scientists, the NRC report points out that seismic events associated with energy technologies have not resulted in loss of life or significant damage to date. The events, however, are raising concerns, as well they should.

## The Real Cost Of Electricity

If anyone, or any business, can get a good deal on electricity, it ought to be Consolidated Edison, which buys loads of it every year and then sells it to three million customers in New York City and the suburbs. Like most traditional utility companies, it has gotten out of the power generation business in recent years and is now basically a distribution company. It buys the electricity that it delivers from generators run by independent companies.

So when Con Ed goes shopping, where does it find the best prices? The state has plenty of relatively cheap and clean electricity from hydropower and wind farms, but unfortunately it is trapped in the northern reaches of the state by an antiquated distribution system that hits a traffic jam of electrons before it gets near the city.

The contractual electricity prices are kept secret by the generating companies and the utilities, but by poring through Con Edison's annual reports, it is possible to figure out the prices it paid in 2010 to four of its leading suppliers.

Here are the numbers for each kilowatt hour produced:

12.8 ¢ from a wholesale market based in Albany.

8.2 ¢ from a gas-fired power plant in Astoria, Queens.

7.7 ¢ from the Indian Point nuclear generators.

6.8 ¢ from a gas-powered co-generation plant operated in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Certainly, the cost of making electricity has declined drastically in the last few years, in large part because the price of natural gas has been dropping. The decrease in price has made electricity from natural gas more than competitive with nuclear power. In 2008, the price of natural gas was \$12 or \$13 for a quantity known as a decatherm. "Right now, it is \$3 for a decatherm," according to Joseph P. Oates, a vice president at Con Edison.

What would make sense would be modernization of the distribution network bringing power down to New York City and its suburbs from upstate and other parts of the grid (a project currently in the works). In addition, beyond conservation, making use of the available natural gas in nearby existing pipelines to run generators at the Indian Point site would more than make up for the nuclear power there. There is no single "silver bullet" solution, but a combination of sensible steps will do it.

What's needed is a timetable to allow an orderly shut-down of the Indian Point nuclear facility without granting it a relicensing extension, bringing in these other sources of available electricity to take up the slack. Now that's a win-win for all parties, including the environment.

## Legislating Against Rising Seas

It's the legislative equivalent of plugging your ears, closing your eyes, and screaming "I can't hear you!"

North Carolina's General Assembly has proposed a bill that would prevent scientists from using modern, scientific models to accurately predict what might happen to sea levels if climate change continues unabated.

*Wow! Let that sink in for a minute.*

Rather than use science to accurately predict what might happen to its valuable coastal areas, and educate its citizens about how to prepare for this change, North Carolina's political leaders would just rather make the truth illegal.

Typically, scientists use an exponential model to predict how much sea levels will rise if global temperatures continue to do the same. They have to use a non-linear model because each time the climate warms even a fraction of a degree, it has a major impact on the ocean's current volume as well as ice cap melt rates.

Taking these variables into account, most climate experts say that sea levels will rise at least three feet by the end of the century. But this doesn't sit well with a group of legislators from 20 coastal North Carolina counties whose economies will be most impacted by the swelling seas. So, they've introduced Replacement House Bill 819, which makes it illegal for state scientists to use exponential models to predict changes in sea level.

The key language, talking about rates of sea level rise, states: "These rates shall only be determined using historical data, and these data shall be limited to the time period following the year 1900. Rates of sea-level rise may be extrapolated linearly."

North Carolina legislators have decided that the way to make exponential increases in sea level rise—caused by those inconvenient feedback loops we keep hearing about from scientists—go away is to make it against the law to extrapolate exponentially; we can only extrapolate along a line predicted by previous sea level rises. Under the new linear-only rule, the state-appointed board of scientists of the Coastal Resources Commission would only be able to predict an 8-inch sea level rise by the end of the century. How's that for legislating science!

Now this level of denial might seem shocking, but it's par for the course in North Carolina. Throughout its history, the state has attempted to legislate away lots of pesky things that it just didn't like, including abortion, gay marriage and racial integration. Unfortunately, this war on reality does nothing more than jeopardize the physical and economic safety of North Carolina's citizens, who would probably like to know the truth about what's in store for their state.

We can now look forward to the day when, knee deep in water on the front porches of their Outer Banks mansions, these legislators will be forced to inform the ocean that it's breaking the law.

## Quote Without Comment

"If the pictures of those towering wildfires in Colorado haven't convinced you, or the size of your AC bill this summer, here are some hard numbers about climate change: June broke or tied 3,215 high-temperature records across the United States. That followed the warmest May on record for the Northern Hemisphere—the 327<sup>th</sup> consecutive month in which the temperature of the entire globe exceeded the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average, the odds of which occurring by simple chance are 1 in  $3.7 \times 10^{99}$ , a number considerably larger than the number of stars in the universe.

"Meteorologists reported that this spring was the warmest ever recorded for our nation—in fact, it crushed the old record by so much that it represented the 'largest temperature departure from average of any season on record.' The same week, Saudi authorities reported that it had rained in Mecca despite a temperature of 109 degrees, the hottest downpour in the planet's history."

*Bill McKibben, in Rolling Stone, 7/19/12*



# 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 16, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Thanksgiving Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center.** We expect many dishes and a turkey to be cooked. Also, a presentation on global warming and what we can do. Info: [www.Riverlovers.org](http://www.Riverlovers.org).

Nov 18, Sun, 2pm, **Borderline Folk Music Club presents Priscilla Herdman** in a house concert in Steve Shapiro's living room, 7 Trailside Court, New City, NY. \$20 (members \$15) plus cold Potluck dessert for 4. Reservations & info: e-mail [solz1@optonline.net](mailto:solz1@optonline.net) or call Sol Zeller at 845-354-4586. Borderline website is [www.borderlinefolkmusicclub.org](http://www.borderlinefolkmusicclub.org).

Nov 22, Thurs, **Thanksgiving** – a day of celebration for all.

Dec 2, Sun, 6pm, **Uptown Coffeehouse featuring The Kennedys**, at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham St, City Island. \$15 at door. Info: (718) 885-2955 or [www.uptowncoffeehouse.org](http://www.uptowncoffeehouse.org).

Dec 8, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Brother Sun.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets (\$18) at [www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602) or \$23 at door. 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: call 914-946-1625 or [www.WalkaboutClearwater.org](http://www.WalkaboutClearwater.org).

Dec 9, Sun, the first of the eight days of **Hannukah, the festival of lights.** May we always have them! (Con Ed, take note!)

Dec 14, Fri, 5-9pm, **Holiday Potluck at the Clearwater office has become a Riverlovers tradition!** At 724 Wolcott Ave, Beacon (Rte 9D). Bring food & drink to share, and bring your instruments and voices to join in the fun. If you need a ride, let Warren know at his home number or his cell (914-319-3379).

Dec 25, Tues, **Merry Xmas** to all people of good will.

Dec 26, Wed, **Kwanzaa celebration** begins.

Jan 1, Tues, **Riverlovers wishes all a Happy New Year. Resolve to pay your dues now!**

## The Ten-Step Way To Health

Pledge to take these ten steps to lower your risk of cancer on behalf of those who love you. Then share the pledge with your loved ones. I will:

1. Avoid tobacco.
2. Stay lean, but not purposefully underweight.
3. Engage in at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily.
4. Eat a variety of vegetables, fruits, legumes, and grains.
5. Limit my intake of alcohol to two drinks (males) or one drink (females) daily.

6. Limit my intake of red meat, and skip processed meat.
7. Limit my intake of foods that are excessively salty or processed.
8. Limit my exposure to sunlight and tanning beds.
9. Work with my physician to create a cancer screening schedule and then follow it.
10. Support cancer research and limitations on the spread of cancer-causing substances in the environment.

### 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 2013 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		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

Web Page: [www.riverlovers.org](http://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](http://www.riverlovers.org)

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting  
November/December Newsletter Contributors: Bill Flank, Warren Lindholm

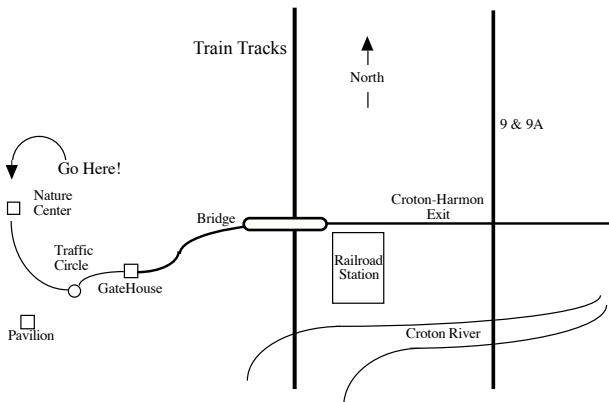
## Riverlovers Thanksgiving Potluck and "Global Warming—What You Can Do"



**Riverlovers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



**Friday, November 16, 2012**

**6:30pm**

**Croton Point Nature Center**