



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 20, Number 10, October 2007

Riverlovers Sloop Club Annual Report

by Cynthia Andersen

Hello dear members, I am sharing the annual report I wrote for Clearwater with you. This report was very well received by Clearwater and I am happy to say I received high grades. By the time you read this issue of the *Currents*, Gunnar and I will have already attended the Clearwater Annual Gathering at the University Settlement in Beacon which was held on Saturday, September 29. It was an all-day affair and it featured many interesting workshops dealing with environmental issues. Go to our website, www.riverlovers.org to find out the details of the Gathering.

The main thrust for Clearwater this year will be the issue of DIVERSITY. How can we attract members of multi-ethnic backgrounds? If you have ideas about what type of activities we can create to interest people of different cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds send your ideas to the *Currents*. The report follows:

It has been a great year for Riverlovers for many reasons. We have a new president, Gunnar Andersen, who is sincerely committed to the environment, energy conservation and the health of our great Hudson River. He has begun his tenure as president by creating a web site for Riverlovers (www.riverlovers.org), which offers the Riverlovers newsletter, a calendar of events and many useful links. Due to the excitement of having a new president, attendance at our monthly Potlucks increased. One of the purposes of Riverlovers is meeting the needs and interests of individuals through gathering together at monthly Potluck dinners which feature varied programs to enhance environmental education and awareness. We are fortunate to have a regular meeting place: the Nature Center at Croton Point Park.

We began the year with an Inaugural Potluck lauding Eric Marshall, our past president who is now President *EMERITUS* of Riverlovers. A video of Helen Caldicott's appearance at a Westchester venue where she presented all of the dangers of nuclear power and the need to find alternative means of energy was shown at the next Potluck. The following month we presented the video, "Swim for the River," followed by a lively discussion and which was followed up by articles written for our newsletter, *Riverlovers Currents*, describing all the areas of the Hudson River which have suffered drastic consequences from industrial polluters.

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Potluck Report – September 21, 2007

by Gunnar Andersen

We had a very pleasant Potluck dinner/planning meeting on Sept. 21. The weather was perfect for our alfresco dinner. A couple of new people showed up and one of them became a member!

Our discussion centered on future activities. It included:

Exploring a greater synergy or actually joining with Ferry Sloops. It was resolved that we arrange some joint events with Ferry Sloops.

Have an outreach table at other Clearwater events in order to bring in new members. Volunteers to help organize this are welcome.

Sponsor a workshop with a Croton sculptor who works with found objects.

Sponsor a showing of the film "Solar Circus" at the Croton Library.

The lovely evening closed with our indefatigable Warren Lindholm pointing his telescope (now with a ZOOM lens!) first at the moon and then at Jupiter.



This Nature Center display shad was *not* caught at the Riverlovers seining event.

Photo by Beverly Dyckman

Pay your dues now—support our river!

\$15 Individual & \$20 Family

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We prepared and hosted a Soup and Bread party at the Nature Center at Croton Point Park for the people who participated in an Eagle Watch weekend in February.

Our association with Scott Williamson, the curator of the Nature Center, has been very fruitful. We have collaborated with him during our Potlucks and had a seining demonstration at Mother's Lap in Haverstraw Bay. It was here that many ethnically diverse families, who were enjoying a day/evening out at Croton Point Park, spontaneously joined the demonstration. We do realize that our membership does not include such a broad ethnically diverse population and we are exploring having more activities such as seining to attract more such families.

As usual, the highlight of our year is in May at our Annual ShadFest festival. The weather was good this year as was the attendance. Alas, it was a ShadFest without shad this year—we could not purchase any—but as our musical entertainers regaled us with music, we served salmon dinners. At the ShadFest our emphasis continues to be the presentation and promotion of environmental research, educational displays and materials to promote awareness and action to protect our rivers and our environment for all of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Andersen
Co- Secretary of Riverlovers

Is Indian Point “Insane”?

Back in the 1970's Robert Ryan, Director of State Programs for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said as follows:

“I think it is insane to have a three-unit reactor in the Hudson River in Westchester County, 40 miles from Times Square...and if you describe that 50-mile circle, you've got 21 million people. And that's crazy. I'm sorry. I just don't think that that's the right place to put a nuclear facility.”

Wow! Were we crazy not to listen?

If it was insane then, what can we say now, with the threat of terrorism on everybody's mind? Allowing this facility to continue to operate, let alone renewing its license, must be sheer madness. Look at the facts.

In a study conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists and commissioned by Riverkeeper and others, it is estimated the a worst-case scenario for a successful terrorist attack on Indian Point could cause up to 518,000 long-term deaths from cancer and up to 44,000 near-term deaths. Economic damage within 100 miles of Indian Point could reach as much as \$2.1 trillion.

In the 18-month period from December, 2005 to August, 2007, Indian Point Reactors 2 and 3 had a combined total of 12 shutdowns due to a variety of safety problems. These included malfunctioning discharge valves, electrical complications that caused the steam generator to stop functioning, a leaking alloy pipe, a transformer fire, and worn wiring that tripped off the main generator.

Since January of this year, Indian Point 2 has had problems with debris and ice collecting on its antiquated intake screens, low water levels in its steam generator, and a cracked nuclear fuel rod in the spent fuel pool for Indian Point 2. After a fire and explosion in March, 2007, the Nu-

clear Regulatory Commission downgraded Indian Point 3's safety rating, because the unit had four unscheduled shutdowns in less than a year. Indian Point has had five to six times the number of unplanned shutdowns of any nuclear plant in the country.

Since 2000, three U.S. nuclear power plants, including one owned by Entergy, the owner of Indian Point 2 and 3, have reported unaccounted for or missing spent fuel. And they want a 20-year license extension! What must they be smoking?

Undermining Science—A Book Report

Author Seth Shulman, in his new book, *Undermining Science: Suppression and Distortion in the Bush Administration*, paints a chilling portrait of the current administration's systematic replacement of scientists with political hacks. He reports that policy decisions are made based on scientific information that the administration knows to be false. He also reports that scientists' jobs are in danger if the scientists do not create outcomes that will help the administration's cause.

Readers are introduced to the “gatekeepers” that have been installed to ensure that information that agencies release to the public conforms to the administration's ideology. These gatekeepers very often have close ties to industry, especially ones which the agency oversees or regulates.

In sharp contrast to this coziness, Shulman portrays administration appointees and federal employees who have quit in disgust and frustration, after being pushed to compromise their integrity by the gatekeepers and other administration officials.

EPA Administrator Christine Whitman, for example, resigned her position after political appointees from the White House heavily edited parts of the EPA “Report on the Environment.” The edited version cast doubt on climate change and added references to disproved studies paid for by the American Petroleum Institute. Whitman eliminated the entire important section on climate change rather than misrepresent the scientific consensus on the issue.

While pursuit of this sort of ideology endangers the health and welfare of the American public, Shulman proposes an antidote. “The first order of business in combating the abuse of scientific integrity involves a straightforward working premise: to restore a healthy reverence for the facts that good governmental policies must be based upon.” The message of the book is clear. Science must remain independent of political ideology.

Progress On Pete's Nobel Nomination

Here's a report on what's been happening, forwarded to the *Currents* by Leesa Thompson. Over 6000 people so far have signed the petition asking the American Friends Service Committee to nominate Pete for the Peace Prize.

The petition has been posted at www.petitionthem.com/default.asp?sect=sign&pet=3774 and you can encourage others to sign as well. The goal is to get 8888 signers in celebration of Pete Seeger's 88th birthday this past May. The Quaker group has agreed to consider the nomination, and the campaign has been picked up by several other web sites.



What's Happening When

Sundays at Beacon Sloop Club, **Farmers' Market** 10am-4pm. Local cheese, eggs, pasta, bread, lamb & mushroom spring rolls.

Oct 19, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck** on the third Friday of the month at Croton Point Nature Center. Get the news from the Clearwater Annual Gathering, if you weren't there in person. Latest info at www.riverlovers.org.

Oct 13, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Robin & Linda Williams & Their Fine Group.** At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Tickets \$17.50 in advance, \$20 at door, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments. Parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: www.walkaboutclearwater.org or call 914-242-0374.

Global Warming Myths & Facts—II

MYTH: Even if global warming is a problem, addressing it will hurt American industry and workers.

FACT: A well designed trading program will harness American ingenuity to decrease heat-trapping pollution cost-effectively, jumpstarting a new carbon economy.

Claims that fighting global warming will cripple the economy and cost hundreds of thousands of jobs are unfounded. Companies reducing their heat-trapping emissions discovered that cutting pollution saves money. The cost of a comprehensive national greenhouse gas reduction program depends on precise emissions targets, timing for reductions and the means of implementation. An MIT study found that a modest cap-and-trade system costs less than \$20 per household annually with no negative impact on employment.

Experience shows properly designed emissions trading programs reduces compliance costs significantly compared with other regulatory approaches. For example, the U.S. acid rain program reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 30 percent from 1990 levels and cost industry a fraction of the original government estimate, according to EPA.

A mandatory cap on emissions could spur technological innovation that could create jobs and wealth. Letting global warming continue until we are forced to address it on an emergency basis could disrupt and severely damage our economy. It is far wiser and more cost-effective to act now.

Reduce Gas Consumption—Eventually

President Bush announced a ten-year plan to issue regulations to reduce vehicular gasoline consumption. This "20 in 10" plan will reduce consumption by 20% in 10 years, and he asked for regulatory proposals by the end of 2008.

The 20% cut works out to about 28 billion gallons per year. We currently burn about 140 billion gallons of gas per year. New vehicle efficiency standards would save 8 billion gallon, and this would increase gradually over several years. The remaining 20 billion gallon saving comes from production of 35 billion gallons of ethanol, which is mixed with gasoline at the 10% level currently.

This is the administration's response to the recent Supreme Court ruling that EPA has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, reversing their previous stand. States had been blocked from taking action on their own.

There were cries of "Too little, too late!" from members of Congress, state officials, and environmental groups. House Speaker Pelosi said, "It appears that the President wants to run out the clock to the end of his term without addressing our energy needs."

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 2007 to: Riverlovers, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

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:	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112
Vice Pres. (programs):	Robin Fox	271-6088
Co-Secretary:	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Co-Secretary:	Leesa Thompson	528-0098
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396
President-Emeritus	Eric Marshall	827-3696

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting

October Newsletter Contributors: Cynthia Andersen, Gunnar Andersen, Bill Flank



Interest Group Coordinators

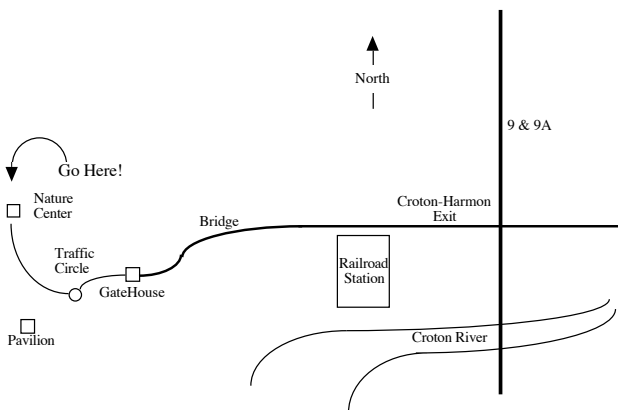
Interest Group	Coordinator	Phone
Envir. Education	Bill Flank	238-8240
Membership	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112
Newsletter	Bill Flank	238-8240
Newsletter Distribution	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Outreach		
Photographer/Archivist	Beverly Dyckman	739-5057
Potluck	Robin Fox	271-6088
Publicity		
ShadFest	Robin Fox	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.

Fall Colors Potluck



Friday, October 19, 2007

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520