



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 26, Number 10, October 2013

Message From The President

What a wonderful Summer the Riverlovers had, with two sails on our members' sail boat, the Solar Wind, a 19-foot single mast sloop. We had very light winds on the first sail and high winds and choppy waves for the second. Needless to say the first sail was very relaxing, and the second sail was quite a challenge. In August we had an enjoyable sunset sail on the magnificent Sloop Clearwater, a 106-foot single mast sloop. Onboard we were treated to great music by Pat Lomanna, Rick Ahneman, and Sheryl and Steve Kaplan.

I want to thank everyone who sailed and contributed, and made a successful evening. I also want to thank Bill Flank for inviting 15 people and for his generosity. One of the invitees was the School Superintendent for Putnam Valley. She saw Clearwater in action, and will encourage participation by school children in her district. After the sail, Pete Seeger came down to meet the Clearwater. Everyone was thrilled to meet and talk to Pete.

We collected \$625 to donate to Clearwater. We are donating in memory of Pete's wife, Toshi Seeger. She was his muse, and quoting Pete, she was the brains of their marriage.

We are looking forward to Autumn with its blue sky, sunny days and cool clear nights. On Sunday, October 6 at 12 noon, we will participate in a guided canoe trip in Constitution Marsh in Cold Spring. Please call me at 914-319-3379 to reserve a spot. The directions are from Route 9D just after the bridge, turn left (west) to Beverly Warren Road to Warren Landing Road, where we will meet and walk down to the Audubon Center. After the canoe paddle we will visit the Indian Brook waterfall.

On Saturday, October 12 at 12 noon we will repeat a walk on Sylvan Lake Park Preserve. This is a very exciting and fairly easy walk. We will see the abandoned farm, the 100 foot cliff, the closed Stone Quarry, and the giant Quarry Oak tree. We will meet at BJ's shopping center on Route 202 near the Taconic Parkway.

For the Friday, October 18 Potluck at 6:30pm in the Nature Center, John Phillips will give a presentation on the archeology of Croton Point Park. He will exhibit various artifacts, from the Native Americans to industries of yesteryear. This should be quite a show!

For the Friday November 15 Potluck, our own Cynthia Andersen will give a presentation on The Art and Photography of the Civil War. We are eagerly looking forward to this presentation by Cynthia!

For the Friday, December 20 Holiday Potluck, as usual at 6:30pm at the Croton Point Nature Center, we will have an encore screening of *Climate of Doubt*, a PBS Frontline special exploring the politics of global warming and climate change. This documentary will show how people who deny climate change have managed to be so influential in manipulating the public's thinking.

This should be an interesting season. Be part of it!

Fracked Methane In Drinking Water

There's no question now. We've got the smoking gun. Researchers have analyzed 141 drinking water wells across the Appalachian Plateaus of northeastern Pennsylvania. They correlated natural gas concentrations and isotopic signatures with proximity to shale gas wells using hydraulic fracturing.

The data were published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and indicate that people who live less than one kilometer from gas wells very frequently have drinking water contaminated with hydrocarbons that escaped from the wells. Methane was detected in 82% of drinking water samples, with an average concentration six times higher in homes within one kilometer of natural gas wells than that found in homes further away. Concentrations of ethane, a gas associated in smaller amounts with methane in natural gas, were found to be 23 times higher.

The research team included scientists from Duke University, University of Rochester, and California State Polytechnic University at Pomona. Their work expands on a 2011 study that similarly found greater levels of methane in drinking water wells in northeastern Pennsylvania that were near Marcellus Shale gas wells. That earlier study had been challenged by the hydrofracking industry, but now definitive and incontrovertible evidence is available to establish that fracking leads to methane contamination of drinking water resources in the vicinity of the gas wells.

To abuse an old cliché, water and gas don't mix, and people and gas don't mix either. It's just not a safe thing to do where there are people around, unless you care a whole lot more about profits than about people.

Pay your dues now—support our river!

\$25 Individual & \$35 Family

It cost \$8.60 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, and get your friends to join you.

Entergy Doesn't Have It!

Entergy must obtain an Article 401 Water Quality Certification from New York State in order to be relicensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to operate the Indian Point nuclear reactors, and its initial application was denied by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in 2010. In the latest round of hearings before the DEC in July regarding the state's denial of Entergy's Clean Water Act 401 Certification, testimony from Entergy on its "wedgewire screen" alternative cooling system shows that the company does not own or have legal access to the Hudson River bottom in front of Indian Point which is needed to build the screens.

Under federal and state law, an alternative cooling technology like the screens must be "available" to be considered for use. This means Entergy must be able to obtain permits and have physical ownership or access to property on which to build it. Without this, the technology is not "available" and should not be considered as a viable alternative.

Also, Entergy's latest testimony fails to include any environmental impacts related to constructing the screen array, an enormous underwater structure that would take up five acres of the Hudson River. These impacts include destruction of river bottom habitat as well as dredging and potential resuspension of sediment contaminated with radiation.

According to Riverkeeper's Phillip Musegaas, "After two years of hearings, it is now clear that Entergy's wedgewire screen proposal is nothing more than an elaborate hoax which Entergy has fabricated in order to further delay compliance with environmental laws that protect the Hudson River. The facts...show conclusively that wedgewire screens are not as protective of the river as closed-cycle cooling, and in fact Entergy doesn't have the legal right to build them on five acres of riverbottom in the first place."

It's time for Entergy to face facts, and to begin planning for the permanent shutdown of Indian Point. This aging plant is an accident waiting to happen while it continues to inflict damage on the environment. Entergy also needs to take responsibility for safeguarding the site, dismantling the reactors, and safely cleaning up the stockpiled spent fuel.

Changing of The Guard At Clearwater

As of the end of July, Jeff Rumpf resigned as Executive Director of Clearwater, primarily due to a difference of vision for Clearwater's future between him and the Board. While a new Executive Director is being sought, a three-person management committee of the staff is in charge of operations.

Board president Allan Shope, whose term was to end in September, had also resigned earlier. Vice president Frank Landsberger has taken on the role of president, and he was elected to that office for the coming year at the Annual Meeting, along with Steve Filler as vice president, Dave Lebson as secretary, Claus Kinder as treasurer, and Bill Flank, Robi Schlaff and Ann Osborn as Directors-At-Large.

Clearwater's successes this past year were celebrated at the Annual Meeting, chief among them being the completion of the homeport and winter maintenance facility at the Kingston waterfront, in conjunction with the Hudson River Maritime Museum. At the same time, a sobering financial picture was discussed by Frank and Claus as the organization and its membership pull together to build for the future.

How To Save The Planet—II

There are many simple things you can do in your daily life—what you eat, what you drive, how you build your home—that can have an effect on your immediate surroundings, and on places as far away as Antarctica. Here is a list of a few things that you can do to make a difference.

- **Insulate Your Water Heater**—Keeping your water heater insulated could save 1,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$40 per year.

- **Replace Old Appliances**—Inefficient appliances waste energy. Save hundreds of lbs. of carbon dioxide and hundreds of dollars per year.

- **Weatherize Your Home**—Caulk and weather strip your doorways and windows. Save 1,700 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$274 per year.

- **Use a Push Mower**—Use your muscles instead of fossil fuels and get some exercise. Save 80 lbs. of carbon dioxide per year.

- **Unplug Un-Used Electronics**—Even when electronic devices are turned off, they use energy. Save over 1,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$256 per year.

- **Put on a Sweater**—Instead of turning up the heat in your home, wear more clothes. Save 1,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$250 per year.

- **Insulate Your Home**—Make sure your walls and ceilings are insulated. Save 2,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$245 per year.

- **Air Dry Your Clothes**—Line-dry your clothes in the spring and summer instead of using the dryer. Save 700 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$75 per year.

- **Switch to a Tankless Water Heater**—Your water will be heated as you use it rather than keeping a tank of hot water. Save 300 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$390 per year.

- **Switch to Double Pane Windows**—Double pane windows keep more heat inside your home so you use less energy. Save 10,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$436 per year.

- **Buy Organic Food**—The chemicals used in modern agriculture pollute the water supply, and require energy to produce.

- **Bring Cloth Bags to the Market**—Using your own cloth bag instead of plastic or paper bags reduces waste and requires no additional energy.

- **Turn Off Your Computer**—Shut off your computer when not in use, and save 200 lbs. of carbon dioxide. Conserve energy by using your computer's "sleep mode" instead of a screensaver.

- **Be a Meat Reducer**—The average American diet contributes an extra 1.5 tons of greenhouse gases per year compared with a vegetarian diet. Eliminating meat and dairy intake one day a week can make a big difference.

- **Ditch the Plastic**—2.5 million individual plastic water bottles are thrown away every hour in the U.S. Start using a reusable water bottle and just say no to plastic!



What's Happening When

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

Sept 28, Sat, Entergy's operating license for Indian Point No. 2 nuclear reactor officially expires. *Run For Your Life*, a walk-run-bike-paddle protest sponsored by Clearwater and Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition sends a message to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Oct 6, Sun, noon, **Riverlovers Audubon-guided canoe trip in Constitution Marsh** south of Cold Spring. Please call Warren at 914-319-3379 to reserve a spot. See page 1 for more details.

Oct 12, Sat, 12 noon, **Riverlovers Walk at Sylvan Lake Park Preserve**. Visit abandoned farm, 100 ft. cliff, old quarry, historic quarry oak tree. Call Warren at 914-319-3379 for more info.

Oct 12, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring John McCutcheon**. John is great entertainment and a real treat. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets via credit card (\$20) at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/producer/5602 or \$25 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: Bill Chestnut at 914-603-3383 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org/music/home.php.

Oct 13, Sun, noon-5, **Beacon Sloop Club Pumpkin Festival**. Pies, music, crafts, etc. At Riverfront Park, Beacon.

Oct 18, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center**. Share some food & drink, and hear the Nature Center's John Phillips talk about Croton Point Park's artifacts & archaeology. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Nov 15, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Monthly Potluck at Croton Point Nature Center**. Our own Cynthia Andersen will give a presentation on The Art and Photography of the Civil War. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Walkabout Coffeehouse Opens Soon

Opening up the new season on October 12th at the Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse will be a great folk favorite, John McCutcheon, and he'll be followed on November 9th by another great blues favorite, Guy Davis. The second Saturday of every month in the Fall and Spring features terrific entertainment and a folksy environment, so plan on making this a regular habit. Great people, great music, refreshments, free parking, a chance to join in with the Walkabout Chorus in a Singalong every month—that's a combination that's hard to beat. And you'll be helping to support Clearwater as well as folk music! See page 3 listing for more info.

Leaves: Love 'em and Leave 'em

The best thing you can do with your leaves is ...

Leave them on your property! You can:

Shred them with a lawn mower and leave them in place on your lawn.

Compost them (with or without shredding).

Use shredded leaves as vegetable garden and landscape bed mulch. Help the Planet!!!

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

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <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.
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

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

October Newsletter Contributors: Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

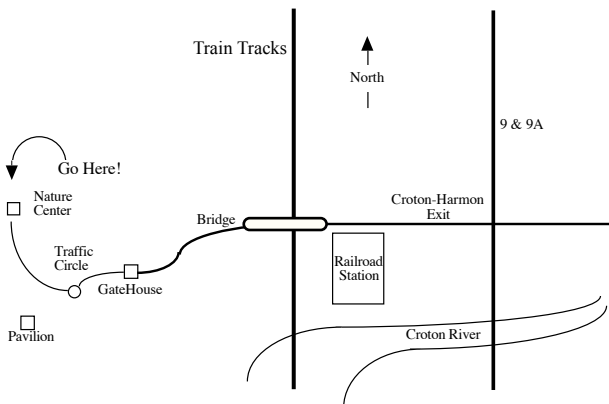
Riverlovers Monthly Potluck with Croton Point Archaeology talk



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Friday, October 18, 2013

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center