



Riverlovers R Currents

Volume 19, Number 6-7, June-July 2006

Riverlovers Doings

The *Currents* is on deadline, and the ShadFest hasn't actually happened yet, but we're set to roll and we're hoping the weather will cooperate. In addition to all the other things we've lined up, Don Bennett of WLNA will be doing a live broadcast segment interviewing some of the people making the ShadFest happen. We anticipate a stellar performance all around, and we hope you shared in the effort.

After we recover from that, we'll have a pre-Revival Potluck on June 16th, when we'll hear how well we did at the ShadFest, some of the latest details on Revival, and firm up our Riverlovers table coverage in the Sloop Club tent.

We're looking forward to a family seining evening in July with Scott Williamson, on the 28th, at Mothers Lap after dinner (weather permitting) at the beach (bring wet shoes if you want to be a seiner). We're arranging a Hudson River School art slide show and discussion with Cynthia Andersen in August, so mark your calendars and plan on participating in these Riverlovers events. And on September 17th in White Plains, Riverlovers is co-sponsoring an appearance by Dr. Helen Caldicott, the Founding President of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Look for further details soon.

The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse on May 13th, the last one this season, featured a double bill with Maggie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino) and Emma's Revolution (Pat Humphries and Sandy O). We brought several batches of our friends, took part in the participatory songfest, and enjoyed a great night of provoking entertainment. Much of next year's schedule is already in place, and we plan not to miss out. How about you?

Clearwater's Hudson River Revival

Clearwater's music and environmental festival is once again at Westchester's Croton Point Park on the banks of the Hudson River on Father's Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 17th and 18th. Advance festival tickets are now on sale! You can order them *NOW* online.

This year Clearwater celebrates 40 years of environmental action, education and music. "The Festival That Saved A River" has been at the forefront of the nation's environmental movement in our struggle for a clean river. Inspired by a desire of singer/activist Pete Seeger to clean up the Hudson River, the Festival today attracts thousands of visitors for a weekend offering the best in music, dance, family fun and children's activities, crafts, storytelling, and environmental education.

For more information about this year's Clearwater Festival, visit: <http://www.cleawater.org> or call 845-454-7673.

Ask Cruise Ships To Clean Up Their Act

Just imagine:

- 25,000 gallons of sewage from toilets;
- 143,000 gallons of sewage from sinks, galleys, and showers;
- 7 tons of garbage and chemical waste;
- 15 gallons of toxic chemicals; and
- 7,000 gallons of oily bilge water.

Each day, a single cruise ship dumps an astonishing amount of pollution into our oceans, threatening the ecosystem and our coastlines. We need to, and can, make them stop.

Unfortunately, the laws that keep our lakes and river shores clean don't apply to our oceans. Once a cruise ship is a mere three miles from shore, it is free to dump untreated sewage from toilets, complete with bacteria, pathogens, and heavy metals which are easily carried to shore by waves. And pollution by cruise lines continues to go largely unchecked while business soars.

Last year alone, Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. reported more than 2 billion dollars in profits. Even if laws don't stop their polluting ways, public pressure will. Send a letter to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the largest corporation in the industry, urging that they clean up their act! Imagine what a difference we can make for our oceans. After all, this stuff makes its way up our very own tidal river to where we meet and sail—a pretty gross thought!

For more information on this you can check out <http://go.care2.com/e/jcM/iH/lttV>.

Pay your dues now—support our river!
\$15 Individual & \$20 Family

240 Million Years—The Nuclear Legacy

by Marilyn Elie

A great deal has been written lately about the “clean” electricity generated by the nuclear reactors at Indian Point. Generally, that means the nuclear plant does not generate much in the way of greenhouse gases. However, Indian Point sits squarely in the middle of the nuclear fuel cycle. In order to appreciate the full impact of nuclear energy, you have to understand the whole fuel cycle.

Uranium ore in this country is mined on Native American land. The process is not healthy for either the people or their land. The federal government controls uranium mining. It is subsidized and the environmental laws that would apply to private industry do not apply to the federal government. After mining, the low-grade ore is shipped to an enriching facility. The process makes it function better in the reactor.

It also requires a lot of electricity, so much so that each enriching plant has its own coal-fired generator. These coal plants release huge amounts of greenhouse gasses. After processing, the rods are trucked to Indian Point. The rods arrive with no visible sign of the pollution they have engendered. They are loaded into the reactor where nuclear fission is used to generate heat to boil the water to produce some of the electricity used in Westchester and New York City.

The fuel rods last for about six years and then have to be replaced. The fission process changes them, and the used or spent fuel rods constitute some of the deadliest, longest-lasting waste ever produced. Some of the radioactive isotopes are lethal for 240 million years. This is longer than our species has existed on the planet.

The current proposal is to ship this waste to Nevada, and store it on land held sacred by the Western Shoshone. The state of Nevada is united in its opposition to this plan and has many court cases pending to stop the dump. Spent fuel rods from Indian Point would travel by rail or truck to reach Yucca Mountain. Currently, several routes are under consideration.

One plan calls for shipping waste by rail from the train station at Croton, which is just 27 miles from New York City. Another plan calls for it to be shipped on barges down the Hudson River past the Bronx and Manhattan to a port in New Jersey. Many municipalities in the states along the way to Yucca Mountain are opposed to the transportation of this waste through neighborhoods, across bridges, and tunnels under rivers.

Scientific studies cast doubt on the hydrology of the chosen site and its ability to isolate the waste from the environment. The Department of Energy has therefore shifted the emphasis from geological isolation to man-made containers or casks as the primary way to keep radioactive isotopes out of the environment. The casks are supposed to be good for about 300 years. No one has yet answered the question of what happens after that.

It has been estimated that Yucca Mountain can hold what is currently in spent fuel pools across the country. Shipping them is a major long-term process estimated to take about 30 years. If we continue to use nuclear power to generate elec-

tricity during this time, the spent fuel pools will be filled by 2035, the dumpsite at Yucca Mountain will be filled as well, and we will once again be looking for a place to store hundreds of tons of high-level radioactive waste.

When you understand the nuclear fuel cycle, issues of morality and environmental justice become very apparent. It is imperative that we stop splitting the atom to boil water and then store the high-level radioactive waste on-site at Indian Point. It is not safe to move spent fuel rods and no one else wants them. Hardened on-site storage provides the safest alternative to date. The plant can be safely decommissioned in an orderly fashion that provides for workers, taxes and alternative sources of energy. We can conserve, use electricity more efficiently, move toward distributive generation and hand on a clean, nuclear-free legacy to our children.

Environmental Eating

The Patagonia Oceans as Wilderness Campaign has put together a guide to ocean-friendly seafood, so that people can participate in ocean conservation. Some recommended items include farmed clams, mussels, oysters and bay scallops. They filter-feed and don't require fishmeal and fish oil for food, and when they're farmed and not dredged, no damage is done to the ocean.

Wild Alaska salmon is also high on the recommended list, as is squid, Pacific sole and Pacific cod. Several species that are farmed in the U.S., including catfish, shrimp and tilapia, require lesser amounts of fishmeal and fish oil, and are better choices than foreign-farmed ones.

There are also a number of sustainable species that have consumption advisories associated with them, depending on their source, so care must be taken in choosing to eat them. These include both wild and farmed striped bass (avoid Hudson River fish), mahi-mahi, tuna of various kinds, Maine (and Canada) lobster, Pacific halibut, and Dungeness, King and stone crabs. Check the advisories, and don't gorge out on one particular variety.

(Information from Blue Ocean Institute & Patagonia)

Global Warming By The Numbers

21% is the fraction of America's global warming pollution contribution produced by individual households.

42 is the number of states where electricity customers have the option to buy green power through their utility or an alternative power supplier.

200,000 is how many American households use solar energy.

25 pounds of global warming pollution are emitted per gallon of gas used in cars.

10% is the amount by which Americans could reduce their global warming pollution if all car buyers chose a model that gets five more gallons per mile than their current vehicle.

350 pounds of global warming pollution can be avoided by lowering the thermostat just two degrees in winter.

38 watts are what is needed to replace a standard 150 watt light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb.

25% reduction in home heating bills can be achieved by insulating attics, pipes, ductwork and flooring.

(Numbers supplied by Environmental Defense Fund)



What's Happening When

June 3, Sat, 2pm, **Binoculars & Butterflies.** Not only does Croton Point Park provide for excellent birding, but it also offers an interesting diversity of our fluttery friends, the butterflies. Please bring binoculars. Info: 862-5297.

June 11, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA archaeology open house at Croton Point Nature Center.** Take in an afternoon of archaeological adventure with your local archaeological organization.

June 16, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Annual Pre-Revival Potluck & ShadFest report.** Find out the results, and plan our Sloop Club coverage for the weekend festival.

June 17 & 18, Sat & Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point Park.** Mark the dates on your calendar, and order your discount tickets now for the big festival.

June 24, Sat, 2pm, **What's In The Pond?** Join Croton Point Naturalist Scott Williamson to seek out plant and animal critters in a pond ecosystem. Nets provided. Bring your curiosity. Info: 862-5297.

July 9, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA archaeology open house at Croton Point Nature Center.** Take in an afternoon of archaeological adventure with your local archaeological organization.

July 15, Sat, 10am-3pm, **Native American Pottery Using Croton Clay.** Join the park archaeologist in hiking out to Tellers Point beach to collect clay, clean it, and use it to build hand-held pots in Native American style. Info: 862-5297.

July 28, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck by the bay.** A family evening of seining, with Nature Center's Scott Williamson at Mothers Lap after dinner (weather permitting) at the beach. Bring wet shoes if you want to be a seiner. Info: 862-5297.

July 29, Sat, 10am, **Shell Midden Monitoring Walk.** An exciting opportunity to do real archaeological research. Measure the extent of Croton Point's famous shell middens in a walk-over survey. Please, *no shovels!* Info: 862-5297.

How To Grow Fuel

Burning a plant to create fuel adds no net carbon to the atmosphere. The amount released is equal to the amount absorbed during photosynthesis. The real trick is to do it in a way that's good for the planet. What tips the balance is the energy used in farming—for plows and harvesters, for the manufacturing of pesticides and fertilizer—and in conversion and transportation.

Here are some of the land-use and energy-production practices we need to improve to achieve the right balance, so that farmers can earn money by cutting carbon emissions:

Sustainable farming: No-till farming stores carbon in the soil. Cutting back fertilizers reduces nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas. Leaving just 40% of stalks and leaves re-nourishes soils.

Ecosystem protection: Ecologically vulnerable lands should not be used for bio-energy crops. Incentives should be increased

for planting forests, which provides the greatest emissions reductions per acre and filters air and water.

Efficient conversion: Small scale, widely distributed bio-refineries reduce transportation costs and energy use. So does the use of waste products. Lignin, the part of a plant that can't be converted into fermentable sugar, can be burned to power the bio-refinery. The leftover mash can be fed to livestock.

Choosing the right crop: Making ethanol from corn uses lots of energy and fertilizers, with small net emissions reductions. More gains come by using fast-growing crops like switchgrass.

(Information from Environmental Defense Fund)

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 2006 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!



Interest Group Coordinators

Interest Group	Coordinator	Phone
Boats	Jon Lambert	
Book Club	Daria Gregg	944-8396
Envir. Education		
Membership	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112
Newsletter	Bill Flank	238-8240
Newsletter Distribution	Cynthia Andersen	432-3112
Outreach	Jan Ravase	739-0640
Photographer/Archivist	Beverly Dyckman	739-5057
Potluck	Robin Fox	271-6088
Publicity		
Riverwatch	Art Ansel	271-5316
ShadFest	Robin Fox	271-6088

Riverlovers Officers

Co-President:	Eric Marshall	827-3696
Co-President:	Kate Marshall	827-3696
Vice Pres. (programs):	Robin Fox	271-6088
Vice Pres. (membership):	Gunnar Andersen	432-3112
Secretary:	??	??
Treasurer:	Daria Gregg	944-8396

Newsletter Submissions

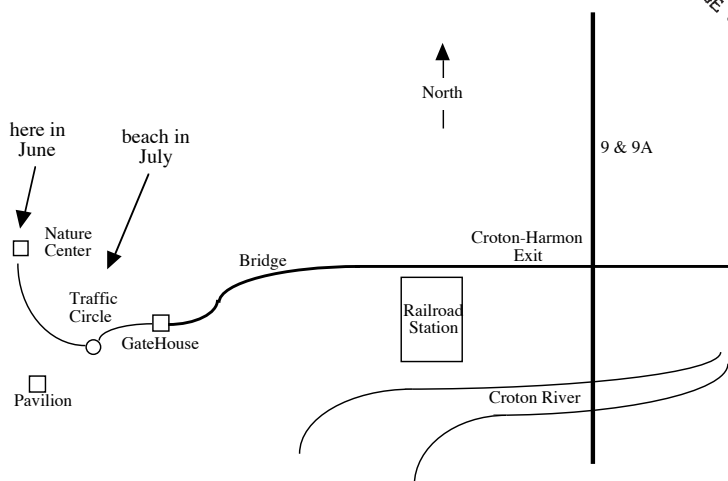
Please send news articles and other items of interest to Riverlovers Currents, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Include your name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted on request.

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
June-July Newsletter Contributor: Marilyn Elie

Pre-Revival Potluck 6:30pm, Friday, June 16, 2006 Croton Point Nature Center



Riverlovers, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520



Seining and Potluck 6:30pm, Friday, July 28, 2006 Mother's Lap Beach