



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 24, Number 6-7, June-July 2011

Message From The President

Ahh! Summer is coming with many wonderful activities planned. But first, the Earth Day celebration on April 30 at Senasqua Park was a success with Jan, Robin, and Brunie stopping by to help. We gave away a small bundle of *Riverlovers Currents* and sold another two tire pressure gauges, promoting fuel efficiency for your auto.

After the May 21st Potluck we all drove over to Croton Gorge Park to see the massive amount of water cascading over the spillway, due to the heavy rains from the previous week. On Sunday, May 22nd the Riverlovers met at the Croton Gorge again and hiked the Croton River Trailway parallel to the swiftly flowing Croton River. What a sight!

We will have our June 17th potluck at the back of the Nature Center, on the eve of Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival. To those who have, or will, volunteer for our Outreach table, you will need to visit the Volunteer counter to pick up your I.D. wrist bracelet and free Tee shirt. To help out, sign up at the Clearwater website for a Sloop Club volunteer reduced-price ticket for 2 days with free meals, camping and a free Tee shirt. We need to showcase our Riverlovers group and bring in new members to our Sloop Club. More new members means we can better promote clean air, clean water and a healthy Hudson River.

For Sunday, July 3rd at 12 noon, we will have a kayak trip at Annsville Creek. We meet at the Annsville Paddlesports Center, just past the Annsville circle near the Reef and Beef restaurant. Start heading north to the Bear Mountain Bridge and immediately turn left to the Paddlesports Center.

I've been in contact with the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center for a canoe trip there. There's a lot of fascinating stuff there. The minimum group size is 8 people. Let me know if you're interested, and we'll see if we can get a group together on a date when the tide allows access.

The annual Sloop Clearwater sail is set for Wednesday evening, July 27th at 5:45pm at Randy King's Marina in Verplanck. Once again we are asking for a donation of \$10 from members and \$20 from non-members (children are free) to help with Riverlovers costs and our donation to our parent Clearwater organization. Go to the very end of Kings Ferry Road; it then becomes 6th street. Just before the dead-end at the river is Randy King's Marina to the left.

For August, we will have at least 2 sails on two of our members' sailboat *Solar Wind*. Stay tuned, and check out our website, www.riverlovers.org.

Be Part Of The Pollution Solution

Help clean up our water resources by minimizing polluted stormwater runoff. That's now become the major concern, even more than point-source emissions. Here are some of the simple things you can do.

If you wash your car on the street or driveway, the soap and oily grit picked up by your car will be washed into nearby storm drains and then into our streams, ponds, reservoirs and estuaries, without any treatment. Pollution like this is unhealthy for all of us.

How can you avoid this mess? Wash your car on grass or gravel surfaces instead of on paved streets. Better yet, take your car to a commercial car wash, where the water is treated and recycled.

What about your pets? If pet waste is not properly disposed of, the waste may be washed into nearby storm drains by rain or melting snow. Pet waste is a source of bacteria, protozoans and viruses. Many storm drains empty into our streams and other water bodies, delivering bacteria and other pollutants into these waters.

What should you do? Carry a pooper scooper or plastic bags. Take it with you, and flush only the waste material, or seal it in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the garbage.

Do you fertilize your lawn? If you apply too much fertilizer, especially before a heavy rain storm, a lot of it may be washed into nearby storm drains and then into our waterways without any treatment. Once in the water, fertilizers promote heavy growth of algae, which then decays. This process uses up available oxygen, which fish and other aquatic life need to survive.

So when you apply fertilizer to your lawn or garden, use it sparingly, and avoid applying it before a heavy rainstorm. Even better, try to use a slow-release fertilizer so it won't quickly wash away.

Does your car leak oil? When oil leaks out onto driveways, streets and parking lots, there's a very good chance it will be washed into storm drains and eventually make its way into our waterbodies. Just imagine the number of cars in your neighborhood, and picture all that oil finding its way from leaky gaskets into our waterways.

Let's be responsible citizens and fix our leaks, and never dump used motor oil or other engine fluids into storm drains or on the ground. Only rainwater should go down a storm drain. It's the least we can do, and it will help keep our water resources clean.

Electric Vehicles: Myths vs. Reality – III

(Adapted from the Sierra Club's Insider)

Myth 7: *Electric vehicles are much more expensive than traditional vehicles.*

Reality: While the initial sticker price of EVs is higher than traditional vehicles, you need to do the math to account for a variety of factors. For individual consumers, there is currently a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 for the purchase of an electric vehicle, as well as a partial federal credit for the charging unit. Several states have additional tax credits on top of the federal ones. Additionally, the average EV driver will save more than \$800 a year in fuel (the cost of electricity compared to gasoline). Due to a cleaner, more streamlined system under the hood, an EV may save the average driver about 46% in annual maintenance costs, according to one federal government study.

Myth 8: *Electric vehicles are only available to consumers in California.*

Reality: While EVs are not yet available for purchase in every state, they are quickly becoming available in many. The fully electric Nissan Leaf is being sold to customers in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and Tennessee. The Chevy Volt, an extended range plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, is currently being sold at select dealerships in California, Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Washington, DC. Customers in nearly all states are expected to be able to purchase or lease a Leaf, Volt, or plug-in Toyota Prius by late 2011 or early 2012. The Tesla Roadster, a fully electric luxury sportscar, is available in several locations throughout the country. By 2012, many other models will become available nationwide, including the Ford Focus EV, Tesla Model S, and the Mitsubishi iMiev.

Myth 9: *Charging an EV on solar power is only a futuristic dream.*

Reality: The technology to power your EV with solar power is already available. The investment in solar panels pays off faster when the solar power is not only replacing grid electricity, but replacing much more expensive gasoline. According to Plug-In America, EVs typically travel three to four miles (or more) per kWh (kilowatt hour) of electricity. If you drive 12,000 miles per year, you will need 3,000-4,000 kWh. Depending on where you live, you will need a 1.5kW-3kW photovoltaic (PV) system to generate that much power using about 150-300 square feet of space on your roof. Utility credits for the daytime solar power can offset the cost of charging the car at night. If solar PV isn't feasible at your home, find out if your utility offers a green energy option.

What's Gotten Into Us?

A Book Review

It's not news anymore that many of the synthetic chemicals in our food, personal care and cleaning products, toys and household goods are harming not just the environment but us as well. Body-burden tests that measure our exposure to chemicals reveal that flame retardants, plasticizers, pesticides and perfluorinated chemicals are in the bloodstream of just about everyone tested.

We note rising rates of many cancers, autoimmune disorders, reproductive illnesses, learning disabilities and

autism, and we recognize that our consumption of synthetic chemicals, a majority of which have not been adequately tested for human health impacts, has wildly increased.

Is there a connection? Many people think so (*including ye olde editor*), and so does McKay Jenkins in his new 321-page book published by Random House and sold for \$26.

Considering the ubiquity of these chemicals in our lives, it's a scary thought, but it's very difficult to conclusively prove that connection. Linking negative outcomes like breast cancer or low birth weight, for example, to specific chemicals is virtually impossible. The European Union, however, doesn't require absolute and unequivocal proof. Guided by the precautionary principle that most scientists advocate using, they have banned entire categories of chemicals from use in consumer goods.

In the practice of medicine, establishing a cause and effect relationship is not easily done. Part of the problem is that we don't have a control group of uncontaminated humans upon which to experiment, assuming that such a practice would be approved by an ethics review board. (Even newborns come already polluted with synthetic chemicals.) To make matters more complicated, chemicals get to us via a variety of exposure routes and in various combinations and doses, which have different effects on us at different stages in our lives.

The author notes that it isn't just chemicals that have gotten into us—after all, our bodies are all made up of chemicals, but it's our culture too. "We are saturated with products, with marketing, and with advertising," he writes. "Our ignorance is not an accident."

Manufacturers fight labeling laws, and the government doesn't adequately support independent research into the environmental and health impacts of even the most commonly used chemicals. Regulatory agencies are underfunded and understaffed, and we can't deal with the flood of goods imported from countries with even less regulations than ours.

What's worse is that we've allowed ourselves to become alienated from the products we use. We don't know what's in them, where they came from or how they're made, and we have no idea where they end up when we're done with them. In a sense, we're illiterate, scientifically and technologically speaking, and we don't know what's gotten into us. Now isn't that a sad state of affairs!

Maybe this book can help save us from ourselves, but only if we make the effort to become truly educated.

"Penny Wise, Pound Foolish"

Ben Franklin's trenchant aphorism comes to mind, as recently departed Governor Paterson announced plans to remove New York State from the federal Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program. "These are the sacrifices we need to make. Our revenue stream is still soft," the Governor had said in a radio interview. In addition to the Hudson River PCB site, the largest Superfund site in the nation, there are currently 113 Superfund sites in New York State. Apparently, the health and safety of people in the Hudson Valley was not a priority of this recent Governor.

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



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.

June 17, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** outdoors in back of the Croton Point Nature Center. Prepare for Revival, sign up for our outdoor hiking and boating events for the coming summer season. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

June 12, Sun, noon-5pm, **Beacon Sloop Club's Annual Strawberry Fest**. Free admission and a wonderful day down by the riverside. Amazing Hudson Valley local strawberries with fresh made whip cream on warm fresh baked biscuits. Free sails on the Woody Guthrie, children's area with many activities for the young ones, entertainment, and lots of crafts and food vendors.

June 18-19, Sat-Sun, **Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival at Croton Point Park**. Great lineup, not to be missed. Sign up to help staff the Riverlovers table in the Sloop Club tent and get a reduced rate ticket. See more information on page 1.

July 3, Sun, 12 noon, **Riverlovers kayak trip** at Annsville Creek. Meet at the Annsville Paddlesports Center. See page 1 for more information.

July 27, Wed, 5:45pm, **Riverlovers Annual Clearwater Sail** out of Randy King's Marina in Verplanck. Plan to sign up now, so you don't miss out.



The IP Danger Isn't Getting Less

We will all be safer when Indian Point is decommissioned. Until that happens, here are some actions that need to be taken immediately.

- Harden the spent-fuel-pool buildings which are now ordinary commercial construction.
- Construct containment over the 1,000 tons of spent fuel that has been racked tightly in the pool, beyond design capacity.
- Add independent electricity and cooling back up for the spent fuel pools.
- Arrange for independent inspection of the inflatable gasket around the cavity in the spent fuel pool.

- Move spent fuel rods to dry cask storage as rapidly as possible. This is much safer.
- Address the flaws in the current 10-mile evacuation zone, as outlined in the official 2003 *Review of Emergency Preparedness at Indian Point* by former Director of FEMA and evacuation expert James Lee Witt.
- Extend the evacuation zone to 50 miles, as was recommended by the US government for Americans in Japan.

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 2011 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.
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:	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



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

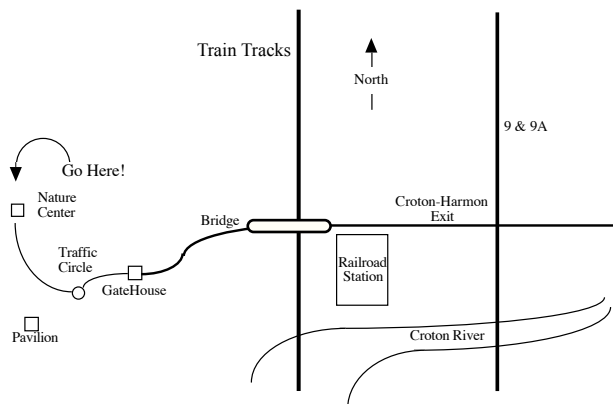
Newsletter Submissions

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 Contributors: Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

Riverlovers Pre-Revival Potluck and Event Sign-Up



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Friday, June 17, 2011

6:30pm

Croton Point Nature Center