



Riverlovers R Currents

Volume 19, Number 5, May 2006

Riverlovers Doings

April's Potluck meeting was devoted to final planning for the ShadFest, the big Riverlovers event of the year, which is set for Sunday, May 21st. A number of Riverlovers made the commitments we needed to pull off our biggest yearly project. If you haven't yet signed up for your share of work, give Robin a call so we know we can count on you. We need *everybody!*

We've met with the County Parks people—Superintendents Tino Martin and Michael Malsbury—and we went over layouts and details to make the ShadFest the big success we all want. All we need are a few more Riverlovers to help spread the load, and we'll be home free with our 16th Annual ShadFest.

After we recover from that, we'll have a pre-Revival Potluck on June 16th, a family seining evening in July with Scott Williamson, and 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.

The Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse in May, the last one this season, is on Saturday, May 13th at 7:30 and features a double bill with Magpie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino) and Emma's Revolution (Pat Humphries and Sandy O). Come early at 6:45 for the participatory songfest, bring your friends and enjoy a great night of entertainment. See the calendar on page three for more details.

ShadFest Alert—Reminder

Our ShadFest preparations are proceeding, well. What we need is *COMMITMENTS* from all of you. Please respond to Cynthia's telephone calls and volunteer to work in the cooking area, the vendor area, and at large.

Several hours of work for everyone will make it so that no one staggers home at the end of an exhausting day vowing never to do it again—that's not what the ShadFest should be for anyone. *So*—make a couple of hours' commitment, and have *FUN* at the first big outdoor party of the year!

PLEASE POST BOTH THE ENCLOSED FLIERS—SHADFEST AND WALKABOUT CLEARWATER COFFEEHOUSE.

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

ShadFest Arrives May 21st !

Riverlovers 16th Annual ShadFest is almost here. This celebration of Spring and the historic traditions associated with the running of the Hudson River shad will again take place Sunday, May 21st from 11 am to 5pm at Croton Point Park. Once again, the ShadFest is co-sponsored by Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, The Hudson River Foundation, Beacon Sloop Club, and Ferry Sloops, Inc., along with, of course, Riverlovers, Inc.

This festival, the first big party of the season, promises to be an exciting event. Highlighted are music, food—shad dinners, landlubber fare, Beacon Sloop Club's famous vegetarian chili and Ferry Sloops' dessert menu—environmental exhibits, activist tables, and craft vendors. There will be Native American craft demonstration, and Chef Terry Arnold plans to bake a whole shad in her solar-powered oven. There's lots of things for kids to do also, and, as always, the celebration and enjoyment of our own beautiful Hudson River.

We're pleased that Riverlovers' good friend, Christopher Letts, environmental educator for The Hudson River Foundation, a co-sponsor of this event, will once again be cooking shad over hot coals and serving free samples of plank-baked, smoked and pickled shad at 2pm. Tom Lake, also an educator with The Hudson River Foundation, will talk about the shad's life cycle in the Hudson and other Hudson River lore.

Help us welcome back Arm-of-the-Sea Theater with their all-new program at 2:30pm. See the 25-foot Whitehall gigs from "Floating the Apple" on display and in the river. Enjoy the kite flying, and the canoe and kayak demonstrations, as well as the Beczak Environmental Center's wonderful games for children.

We've invited singers and local musicians to fill the air with music all day. The Westchester County sound stage will run on current supplied by the Beacon Sloop Club's solar power trailer. We'll have the Red Molly trio, the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus at 1:00pm, and at 3:30pm the long-time favorites Lightning Screamed form Gertrude (now calling themselves The Faithful Druids) will rock until closing.

continued on page 3

A Friend's Retirement

As of March 31, 2006, Bruno Rawl is a man of leisure. Bruno has been our Croton Point Park superintendent for many years. His knowledge of Croton Point, his enthusiasm for the Hudson River, and his interest in Riverlovers, has been a constant in our recent history. Under Bruno's wise management, our Park continued to get cleaner and more welcoming, while staying totally beautiful.

To mark his retirement, and our gratitude, Riverlovers sent him a copy of "New York's Hudson—America's Valley" photographs and text by Ted Spiegel, published by Involvement Media, Inc. and Friends of the Hudson Valley. The book is filled with stunning photographs taken up and down the River, including several of Croton Point Park. At the last Potluck, we signed a card which was included with the book.

Of course, Riverlovers will miss Bruno, but the happy news is that our old friend, Tino Martin, has returned to Croton Point Park as one of its superintendents. We now have two good friends in charge at the Park—Michael Malsbury, who has worked with the staff for the last several years, now joined by Tino. Both are riverlovers by the best definition of the word.

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 and save at: <http://www.clearwater.org>.

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.

Lending a Hand

Once again the Festival is looking for 900 dedicated individuals to volunteer their time, energy and talent to help stage the festival. Volunteers are an integral part of the Festival experience. There are numerous ways for people of all ages to lend a hand, both before and during the event. Volunteer responsibilities include transporting performers; preparing and serving food for performers and other volunteers; setting up the sound stages, booths and displays; supervising children's activities; working in the hospitality field tent, information booth or reception area; staffing the Festival's gift shop; selling festival tickets; and providing pre-festival office support at the Poughkeepsie office.

Volunteers will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and applications must be received by May 12th. For more information about volunteering at this year's Clearwater Festival, visit: <http://www.cleawater.org>. or contact Jen Rubbo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 845-454-7673 x123. You can also email her at: volcoord@clearwater.org.

Indian Point Leaks Again

It was reported last month, in the Matt Drudge Report no less, that high levels of radioactive material—nearly three times the amount permitted in drinking water—were found in groundwater near the Hudson River under the Indian Point nuclear plant. According to Entergy Nuclear Northeast, the owner, the groundwater does not intersect drinking supplies, and although the strontium-90 is believed to have reached the Hudson, it would be safely diluted in the river.

In higher doses, this material is known to cause cancer, and it was found in a well dug in searching for the source of a hot leak at Indian Point. The test well is one of nine dug to pinpoint the leak, which was first uncovered last August.

The well sample also contained tritium, another potential carcinogen, at levels well above drinking water standards. An earlier test well had also found elevated levels, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has announced that it will investigate tritium releases here and at other plants. A spokesperson, however, expressed the belief of the agency that the radioactivity, as long as it is not in drinking water supplies, is still well below the level that would "pose a risk to public health and safety."

Instead of remaining in a constant state of worry over whether Indian Point has done something to endanger us each day, it's time we closed this accident-waiting-to-happen and removed or safely stored the large quantities of hazardous materials kept there as a "sword of Damocles" over our heads.

(Shamelessly lifted from our sister Sloop Club's The Compass, the newsletter of the North River Friends of Clearwater)

Local Attractions—I

With Spring in full swing, to what does an environmentalist's fancy turn? For starters, here's a list of parks and preserves in the area that are worth a visit. Some are free, and some—like County and State parks—charge for parking, but they're all great places to visit to get your "natural world" fix.

Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Route 117, Sleepy Hollow, is marked by a variety of habitats, including wetlands, woodlands, meadows, fields and a lake, as well as the Pocantico River. It's open year-round, from 8am to sunset. Activities include walking, jogging, X-country skiing, horseback riding, bird-watching, photography and sketching. The Visitor Center hosts exhibits of local and historical interest. Info: 631-1470.

Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, is a private non-profit nature preserve of 784 acres, with an education center and over 14 miles of hiking trails. The Nature Center is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9 to 5, and Sunday from 1 to 5. Admission and parking are both free. Special programs have fees and require pre-registration. Trails are open from dawn to dusk. Info: 762-2912, ext. 10.

Croton Point Park has hiking, picnicking, fishing, and a pavilion. The Nature Center houses archeological and naturalist exhibits, and Riverlovers' monthly Potluck dinners.

Croton Dam Plaza, Route 129 in Cortlandt, affords views of the second-largest hand-hewn stone structure in the world. Only the pyramids are larger. The dam provides a magnificent backdrop for picnics and family events. Info: 862-5297.



What's Happening When

May 6, Sat, 1-4pm, **join archaeologist Susan Dublin to Dig It!** & unearth some of the living historical wonders of Croton Point Park. Info: 862-5297.

May 13, Sat, 10am-4pm, **Create a "Three Sisters" garden.** Join Croton Point Nature Center staff to learn the "what, why and how" of a garden that's been a Native American tradition for thousands of years. Tools & work gloves provided. Info: 862-5297.

May 13, Sat, 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse double bill features Maggie & Emma's Revolution** in the season's last concert. Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains (between North St & Mamaroneck Ave). Tickets \$17.50, open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest at 6:45pm. Info: www.WalkaboutClearwater.org or call (914) 242-0374.

May 14, Sun, 1-4pm, **MALFA Open House** at the Croton Point Nature Center. Archaeological exhibits on display.

May 20, Sat, 2pm, **Seining in the Bay**, in Haverstraw Bay (or Mother's Lap as it is commonly known). Long & short nets, crabs & fish will be there. Just bring enthusiasm & be prepared to get wet! Info: 862-5297.

May 21, Sun, 11-5pm, **Riverlovers Sixteenth Annual ShadFest**, Croton Point Park. Plan to help make this the biggest, best, most rewarding ShadFest ever! Sign up for your part now. See story on page 1.

May 27, Sat, 9am, **The Whimsical World of Warblers.** From tall trees to thick shrubs to open meadow, Croton Point Park provides enticing "edge" habitat for these migratory birds. Please bring binoculars. Info: 862-5297.

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

continued from page 1

Admission to the ShadFest, a rain or shine event, is free! There is a \$6 parking fee at Croton Point, but \$4 with a valid Westchester County Park Pass. The proceeds from food sales will benefit Riverlovers, Inc., Beacon Sloop Club, and Ferry Sloops, Inc. environmental projects. Riverlovers, a non-profit Sloop Club of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., is dedicated to the task of cleaning up the Hudson River and its environs through environmental education and citizen action, and this event will further our efforts. Please join us!

Timely Quote Without Comment

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter, and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

Abraham Lincoln

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!

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



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

Newsletter Submissions

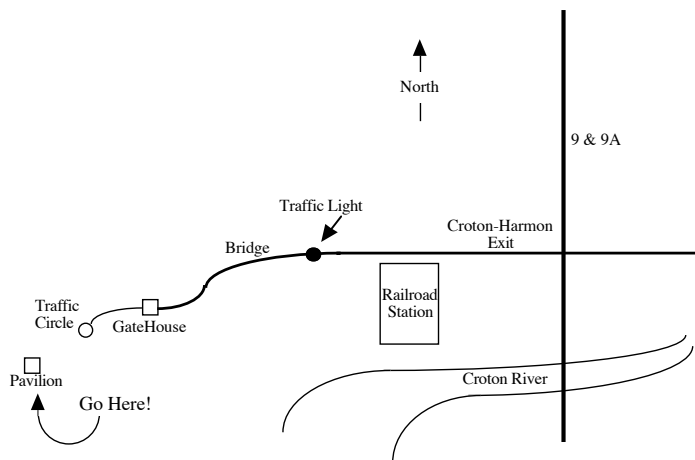
Please send news articles and other items of interest to Riverlovers Currents, P.O. Box 285, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Include your name, address, and phone number. Names can be omitted on request.

Newsletter Committee: Editor, Bill Flank; Associate Editor, Mel Fitting
 May Newsletter Contributors: Robin Fox, Bill Flank, Abraham Lincoln

Support your Annual ShadFest !



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



Croton Point Park

Sunday, May 21, 11am – 5pm