



Riverlovers Currents

Volume 24, Number 10, October 2011

Message From The President

As the warm days and cool nights of Autumn approach, we are reminded of the changing of the seasons. For the Riverlovers this means changing from water to land activities.

But first a brief recap of our Summer activities. We had a wonderful sunset sail on the Sloop Clearwater July 27th. We sailed around Haverstraw Bay in the Hudson River, and we enjoyed a solo concert without instruments by one of the young ladies of the sailing crew. Wow, what a voice!

I also want to mention that we collected over \$400 on the Clearwater sail, which will help keep Riverlovers solvent and help with our donation to Clearwater.

Riverlovers shared a tent with other environmental groups at the River Day celebration at Van Cortland Manor August 7th. It was nice exposure for our sloop club and for our environmental activities and various trips.

Our trip to Constitution Marsh was rescheduled from August 27 to September 10 because of hurricane Irene. Very nice to paddle through the various channels and bird-watch. Afterwards we enjoyed the museum on the grounds.

On September 17th three members attended the Clearwater Annual Meeting and Sloop Club Congress. It was a very interesting and enjoyable day. We received our charter, and we gave a donation check to Clearwater.

The season-opening Riverlovers Potluck is Friday, October 21st at the Nature Center. Let's have a feast celebrating the abundant Fall harvest. Come one, come all!

I would like Riverlovers to visit the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, October 23rd. This is the former Poughkeepsie railroad bridge. There are benches along the bridge and numerous signs about the bridge and the Hudson River. Since it's a bit of a trip to Poughkeepsie, we could meet at the Annsville Paddlesports Center at 1pm and carpool up to the Walkway. Anyone want join me to bicycle ride over the bridge? I understand the trail continues on the Highland side of the bridge as well. Walk or bicycle ride or both—let me know your plans and preferences at 914-319-3379 or 914-739-9028.

For Sunday, November 6th let's hike to Anthony's Nose near the Bear Mountain Bridge. This is near the famous Appalachian trail, and we can walk over part of it. It's a steep climb in a few places, but it's not too long, and there's a spectacular view at the top. Details at the October Potluck.

In closing, looking ahead to November 18th, lets have our traditional Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings!

Walkabout Concerts Coming Up!

The new season has a great lineup in store for you:

October 15, 2011—Milton

November 12, 2011—Sharon Katz & The Peace Train with special guest, Abigail Kubeka

December 12, 2011—Season of Light with Magpie, Kim and Reggie Harris

January 14, 2012—Cathie Ryan

February 11, 2012—The Ebony HillBillies

March 3, 2012—Christine Lavin

April 14, 2012—The Makem & Spain Brothers

May 12, 2012—Bill Staines with special guest Bowen Staines

Please make sure to post the fliers to help spread the word about some great entertainment (which you too might enjoy), and to help our "mother ship" Clearwater.

Pumpkin Sail Is Back!

Community festivals are FREE!

Public Sails last 2 hours & cost \$50 per person, members \$35, children 12 and under \$15.

Pumpkin Sail Schedule:

Saturday, 10/08/2011: Rensselaer

Festival: 11:00-3:30

Public Sail: 4:00-6:00

Music by Rick Nestler and Rik Palieri

Monday, 10/10/2011: Hudson

Festival: 11:00-3:30

Public Sail: 4:00-6:00

Music by Ellia Bisker, Lydia Adams Davis, and Linda Richards

Saturday, 10/15/2011: Kingston

Festival: 1:30-5:00

Public Sail: 2:00-4:00

Music by Betty and the Baby Boomers and Rick Nestler

Sunday, 10/16/2011: Beacon

Beacon Sloop Club's Pumpkin Festival: 12:00-6:00

Public Sail: 4:00-6:00

Saturday, 10/22/2011: West Harlem Piers Park, NYC

Festival: 11:00-3:30

Public Sail: 4:00-6:00

Music by talented performers

Visit www.clearwater.org for sail information, dock directions, and to make your reservation.

When Do We Start To Worry?

by Marilyn Elie

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Indian Point is designed to withstand a 5.8 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter within 50 miles of the plant. This is based on a 5.8 earthquake in New Jersey in 1894. This recent one in Virginia was 5.8 and it was 300 miles away.

The plant was not at risk; however, it is important to remember that the reactor building is the only building that is covered in the design basis. That means the systems that are needed in an emergency are not covered. Neither is the spent fuel pool or underground pipes. Fire-fighting equipment is housed in a cinder-block storage building that an earthquake could easily demolish. Even though this was not a radiological emergency, cell phone lines crashed and it was impossible to make calls, emergency or otherwise. How could the county plan to notify Westchester residents via cell phone have worked in a real emergency? What about notification to those outside the ten mile evacuation area? What about parents who work in NYC and their concern for children left in Westchester? What would they do in a radiological emergency? What would any of us in the 50-mile radius do, considering that our roads and bridges cannot even handle an ordinary rush hour?

This unpredictable act of nature brings home the fact that closing a nuclear reactor situated in a 50-mile radius of 20 million people is about a lot more than generating electricity. While we can generate electricity in many different ways, the potential loss of lives and damage to those of us in the Hudson River Valley and New York City is incalculable. The probability of a natural or human-caused catastrophic release of radiation at Indian Point may well be low. However, the enormous impact on lives and communities is just too much to tolerate.

Indian Point must be closed for the safety and well-being of our Hudson Valley communities. It is vital for all of us to talk with elected decision-makers and remind them of this fact. As this 5.8 magnitude earthquake clearly demonstrates, the time for counting megawatts is over.

The Coming “New Normal”

Here are 10 predictions from *Boom, Gloom, and the New Normal*, by Paul Hodges, about how the world will look in 2021:

1. Young and old will be focused much more on 'needs' rather than 'wants'.
2. A major shake-out will have occurred in Western consumer markets.
3. Housing will no longer be seen as an investment.
4. In emerging economies, companies will have recognized that the phrase 'middle-class' doesn't define people with Western income levels.
5. Many markets will have become more regional.
6. Western countries will have increased the retirement age beyond 65 to reduce unsustainable pension liabilities.
7. Taxation will have been increased to tackle the public debt issue.
8. Social unrest will have become a more regular part of the landscape.

9. Consumers will look for value-for-money and sustainable solutions.

10. Investors will be focused on 'return of capital' rather than 'return on capital'.

The “New Normal” offers the potential to restore a greater balance to society if we refocus our creativity and resources on real needs. There’s also an urgent need to focus on basic research to tackle these needs, rather than simply taking government grants to deploy old technologies.

The transition to the “New Normal” will be a difficult time. The world will be less comfortable and less assured for many millions of Westerners. The wider population will find itself following the model of the aging boomers, consuming less and saving more. Rather than expecting their assets to grow magically in value every year, they may find themselves struggling to pay down debt left from the credit binge.

Not a pretty picture, is it? But if we refocus on “need” and “sustainable solutions,” maybe we’ve got a chance.

Fracking Impact Statement

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation released its revised draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement, the document that could guide gas drilling called hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," but only if Governor Cuomo permits it. Although the Governor didn't extend the public comment period on the fracking guide to the 180 days environmental organizations asked for, we now have 96 days to review its 1,500+ pages. Here are some preliminary conclusions about the state's fracking guide.

First off, it's still not good enough to protect New York's water or our communities, and here are a few reasons why:

We know more about how fracking trucks will impact New York's roads than how fracking will impact our kids' health. The fracking plan does not analyze public health impacts, despite the fact that fracking-related air pollution and the potential for water contamination have serious effects on people—especially the elderly and children, and communities downwind and downstream of proposed fracking operations. There is growing evidence of negative health impacts related to gas extraction in other states.

Although an outside consultant has provided the state with information about the potential economic benefits of fracking, the state's report on economic impacts does not include the steep costs of fracking to communities. Good-government groups have also questioned the consultant's ties to the oil and gas industry.

New York State doesn't propose to ban any chemicals for use in fracking, even those known to be toxic and carcinogenic. With millions of gallons of water required to frack a well, this is a critical flaw in the state's plan. We'll have to live with those chemicals, or pay to clean them up.

Protection of water resources that millions depend on, protection of communities and the health of the people living there, and realistic assessment of the economics and environmental consequences of fracking need to take precedence over the fast-buck hit-and-run tactics of the gas companies.

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.

Oct 15, Sat. 7:30pm, **Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse featuring Milton**. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Advance tickets (\$20) available at www.BrownPaperTickets.com, or at door (\$25). Open seating. Proceeds benefit Walkabout & Clearwater. Refreshments available. Free parking. Informal songfest starts at 6:45pm. Info: call 914-242-0374 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org.

Oct 21, Fri, 6:30pm, **Riverlovers Potluck** at the Croton Point Nature Center. Sign up for our outdoor hiking events coming up. Info: www.Riverlovers.org.

Oct 23, Sun, 1pm, **Riverlovers hiking/biking trip over the Walkway Over The Hudson**. Call Warren at 914-319-3379 to sign up now!

Oct 28, Sat, 7:30pm, free performance by **Sharon Katz and Wendy Quick of The Peace Train**, with special guest Abigail Kubeka. At Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson.

Nov 6, Sun, **Riverlovers hike to Anthony's Nose** near the Bear Mountain Bridge to enjoy spectacular views. Details at October Potluck.

Science vs Politics

Here's a thoughtful post from Andy Revkin's *Dot Earth* blog in the *New York Times*, by Oran Switzer:

"There is not *one* climate dispute. There are two, and the solutions are not the same. First, we need to separate the two. The science debate does not work in politics. If you study the conservative approach to climate change policy long enough, the implication that they are trying to participate in a scientific conversation starts to fade away and you realize the underlying logic they are using actually starts from the conclusion that regulation and government intervention are bad and proceeds to the premise that there is no real problem with climate change, at which point, they pick around for snippets to support their premise.

"This allows them to make big, bold, statements about their identity and character and values rather than wallowing around in overly-precise, overly-pedantic language and data.

"The center-left in the U.S. has a persistent problem with this dynamic because they see every situation where they have a factual advantage as proof of their superiority and then they proceed to hammer people with logic while ignoring the repeated lessons of political strategy. The debate needs to start with *values!* Science has no values. Science only describes the physical world.

"To win the scientific debate about climate change, we just—oh wait, we already did. But to win the political debate, we need to spend less time on the details of the scien-

tific debate and much more on the underlying values—the costs to humanity, society, and the economy of extreme weather, local floods, local droughts, freshwater scarcity, infectious disease, food security, coastline loss, biodiversity loss, etc., etc. It sounds backwards, since the political challengers are denying the possibility of those dangers.

"One might think we need to respond to their challenge. We do not. That's what science is for."

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

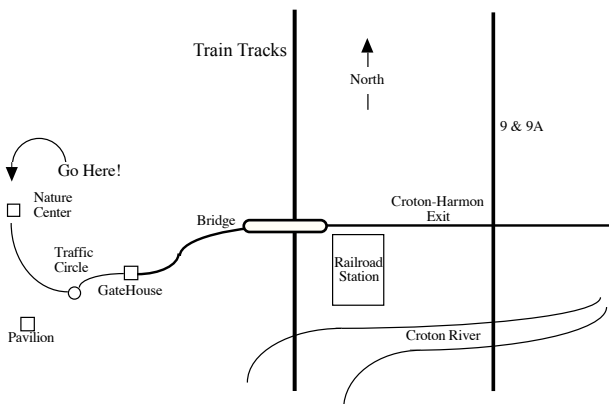
Newsletter Submissions

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

October Newsletter Contributors: Marilyn Elie, Robin Fox, Warren Lindholm

Season-Opening Riverlovers Monthly Potluck



Riverlovers, Inc.

P.O. Box 285

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Friday, October 21, 2011
6:30pm
Croton Point Nature Center