



Clearwater navigator

WINTER 2014-2015



 *Creating the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders*

HUDSON RIVER SLOOP CLEARWATER, INC.

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Clearwater Board Election 2014

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Board members play crucial, active roles in keeping the organization vital and able to operate its extensive programs. Board members are active in fundraising, event planning, program development, financial oversight, public relations and project management. The Board is responsible for organizational governance, policy oversight and operational assessment, and members serve as spokespersons and ambassadors for Clearwater.

Members serve three-year terms and may serve three consecutive terms before they are required to rotate off for at least one year. At the 2014 Annual Meeting on September 27, six new board members were elected to the Board and an amendment to the charter expanding the total number of board members was approved.

Each year, a nominating committee, comprised of Board members and non-Board members, identifies and recruits a proposed slate of candidates. The full Board of Directors accepts or amends the slate. Additional candidates may be added via petition, with the signatures of five Board members or 30 Clearwater members submitted 10 weeks prior to the election.

A ballot is mailed to the membership four weeks prior to the annual meeting. Votes are counted and new Board members are announced at the meeting. The next annual meeting is set for September 20, 2015.

Upcoming 2014-2015 Board Meetings:

- ◆ Wednesday, November 19, 6:30-9:30PM
- ◆ Saturday, January 24, 10:00-1:00PM
River Center, Long Dock Park, Beacon
- ◆ Thursday, March 19, 6:30-9:30PM
- ◆ Monday, May 11, 6:30-9:30PM
- ◆ Tuesday, July 21, 6:30-9:30PM
- ◆ Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 20, 10:00AM
Location TBD

All board meetings are open to members and are held in the conference room at the Clearwater office, 724 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon, NY, unless otherwise indicated.

on the cover



The Clearwater boom, a 66-foot spar that must be replaced this winter. See page 8 for details. Photo by Brian Mohan.

FROM THE HELM

Clearwater's Great Strength, Clearwater's Great Potential

Peter Gross, Executive Director



When I reflect on Clearwater's greatest and most unique strengths, I think of our iconic sloop, of our celebrated festival, of our outstanding education programs, of our dedicated and talented staff and crew and of our awesome privilege to carry on the values and legacy of Pete and Toshi Seeger.

I think, too, of our potential strength as a leader in environmental stewardship, especially how that potential is related to our being a grass-roots organization. I don't have comparative numbers and of course there is overlap, but I'm confident that with our thousands of volunteers each year; our thousands of members and the members of the sloop clubs, we are the largest grass-roots organization working for the Hudson and one of the largest grass-roots organizations of any kind in this part of the United States, measured by numbers of engaged individuals and even more impressively measured by the hours of active engagement.

Yet I must admit that I see it as potential, not a fully realized vision. I believe we are at a point where we need to increase the level and effectiveness of our working together to re-energize that potential. That takes all of us, working as one family, strengthening the alliance of sloop clubs, volunteers and members. Clearwater, in Pete and Toshi's vision, wasn't just a central office, staff and crew. It wasn't just the sloop, its education programs, its advocacy and its festival. They were only part of the vision. It also included a mutually supportive relationship with active sloop clubs up and down the Hudson, engaging people locally and fostering stewardship and love for the river. That vision is central to their dream of what Clearwater can be. Together we are Clearwater. Together, we have the potential for strong grass roots and for immensely effective local and regional

action.

A strong and effective Clearwater also includes all 8,000 or so people who are members. There are two kinds of nonprofits allowed under New York law. One is the usual kind, in which there are no members. The board is self-perpetuating and holds the ultimate governance authority. Almost all nonprofits are that kind. They are less cumbersome and easier to manage. The other kind is the membership nonprofit. That's what Clearwater is. It means that the members elect the board and hold ultimate governance authority. We can legitimately say we're a grass-roots organization, because the final authority is held by about 8,000 people.

And then there are the Clearwater volunteers – literally thousands a year; devoting, year after year, maybe 10,000 hours and lots of sweat, expertise and heart to what we do. I doubt there is any other organization in the New York metro area that has more volunteers contributing more hours or that can more readily engage people who wish to help. We sometimes may take this for granted, but in fact it is unique.

This is an incredible family – the central office staff and crew, the volunteers, the members and the sloop clubs – with truly powerful potential to protect the river; embody important values, create community and even change the world. To fulfill that potential, we need to continue to re-energize the vision. We need to find ways to make our alliance ever stronger. We need to celebrate the connections we share through our common DNA – the values and missions that bring us together – and move forward recognizing that the dedication and passion of each contributes to the power of all who belong to the Clearwater family.



Photo by Dave Corrover.

inspiration

Young Women at the Helm: Learning, Laughing, Leading

By Jacinta Early

This July, Clearwater marked the 13th year of our Young Women at the Helm youth-empowerment program. Thirteen young women from around the Hudson Valley came to meet the *Clearwater* in Yonkers, NY, to experience what life is like running a tall-ship for 3 days. This unique program empowers young women by teaching them about the boat and navigation through environmental education and rigorous leadership training.

The young women were split up into four “watches” to focus on four specific River and sloop specialties: Ruby (focusing on watershed and jib), Emerald (navigation, tiller and engine), Sapphire (ecology and mainsail) and Gold (maritime and docklines). From the moment the program started, we knew that it was going to be an adventure for the participants – and the crew too. As soon as we met each other, there were smiles and laughter.

There were many outstanding moments, such as when the girls wrote song lyrics and made t-shirts to remember their experience, both featuring the catch phrase “3 Days, 2 Nights, 0 Showers.” We were able to run our micro-beads manta-ray trawl to obtain the first official sampling to contribute towards a scientific study. The young women made life-long friendships and learned a great amount from their three-day experience, but they gave so much more back to the *Clearwater* crew than they might realize.

Pictured at right: Young Women at the Helm participants and crew members perform their original tune “3 Days, 2 Nights, 0 Showers” at the dockside ceremony in Beacon ending their journey.



Photo by Toni Martin.

The Young Women at the Helm experience was eloquently summarized in the following card from one of the participants:

“Dear Clearwater Crew:

Thank you very much for allowing me to participate in the Young Women at the Helm Program. I had sooooo much fun and I will never forget the experience. I learned so much about sailing and the Hudson River. Most importantly I made new friends that I can count on for help. I will never forget this Hudson River water Sloop and all this organization does for the community. My experience on the boat has given me more reasons why I should study environmental sustainability or become the world's greatest knot tie-er. Thank you all and I will be in touch. The Clearwater took me to a new latitude in a way I never have before.”



Photos by Erin Buttner.

Young Men at the Helm

By Isaac Santner, Onboard Educator

Our Young Men at the Helm program this summer was once again a wonderful and fulfilling adventure and educational experience. We had students from Albany; Peekskill; Worcester, Massachusetts, and more. Participants this year spent a great deal of time mastering sailing the vessel – and by the end of the program were able to demonstrate an amazing understanding of navigating, working on deck, seamanship and watershed knowledge. We hope to see many of the participants again in the future, during the next youth-empowerment program or as volunteers next summer!





Photo by Dave Conover.

Hudson River Stewards Program

By Dave Conover, Education Director

Clearwater and the Hudson River Maritime Museum are partners in the Kingston Home Port and Education Center. This large barn, a community gathering place and education facility, opened in 2012 and serves as the sloop's winter home and workshop. During the summer, the Maritime Museum uses the space for its programs.

This past July, Boice Brothers Dairy celebrated their 100th anniversary by organizing an event to create the world-record largest ice cream sundae on the Kingston waterfront by the Home Port. Thousands of people participated in the event, which helped raise money for a new program called the Hudson River Stewards.

The idea of the program is to create a joint Hudson River educational experience for Kingston schoolchildren with the sloop *Clearwater* and the Museum. Participating students will receive a combination of in-class visits by Museum and Clearwater educators as well as a trip to the Maritime Museum and tours on the sloop. The program will emphasize the importance of Rondout Creek and the Hudson River in the history of the Kingston area and

lessons in the ecology and environmental issues affecting the region.

Hudson River Stewards is created in the tradition of our River Cities Initiative, where partners from communities in Hudson River cities and towns help make it possible for students to experience field-based programs. As teachers and administrators are finding it more and more challenging to arrange such trips, programs like Hudson River Stewards can serve as a model for similar programs up and down the river.

We'd like to thank Boice Brothers Dairy for helping Clearwater and the Hudson River Maritime Museum develop this program for Kingston. We are also looking for partners in other towns and cities to help make Clearwater programs available for their children.

Contact Dave@Clearwater.org or at (845) 265-8080, x7104 if you'd like to help start a River Cities Initiative program in your community.



No More Plastic Islands: Every Micro-Bead Hurts the Hudson

By Jacinta Early, Onboard Educator

Many of us know about the large “plastic islands” in the North Pacific gyre, commonly referred to as the Great Pacific garbage patch. These “islands” are the result of plastic waste that was part of water runoff into the Pacific Ocean being caught in the natural rotating current vortex. These large islands began with very small particles of plastic that are incorporated into every-day products.

In the 1990s, manufacturers began replacing natural ingredients in cleaners (such as almonds, oatmeal and sea salt) with micro-plastic, or “micro-beads.” The micro-beads are commonly washed down shower drains and bathroom sinks, passing through wastewater treatment plants and then discharged into New York waters. The micro-beads can be mistaken for food (plankton or fish eggs) by aquatic animals. The plastics pass into their digestive tracts and eventually, their circulatory systems. When plastics are ingested by animals, it gives them the sensation of feeling full, which can cause them to starve to death since they are not getting enough nutrients to sustain themselves.

Micro-beads are buoyant and also hydrophobic – a fat-loving/ water-repellent substance. This means they can combine with chemicals like PCBs, pesticides, oils and other such chemicals found in river sediments, allowing distribution of the chemicals throughout the water column and the food web.



Pictured above, a manta trawl is used to sample the river for signs of plastic particles.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater has teamed up with scientists to look for and measure the presence of micro-plastics within the

Hudson River. Clearwater is using a special net called a “manta trawl” to sample the river for signs of these plastic particles. By setting up a divot or boom on the port side of the vessel, we run the manta trawl for a minimum of 15 minutes. At the end of the sailing season, we send the collected samples to be analyzed. Cooper Tank Recycling, Brooklyn, NY, made it possible for us to have this trawl and all of us at Clearwater are very thankful for their contribution. We are extremely interested in hearing what the results of the sampling are going to be.

A bill has been introduced in the New York State legislature to prohibit the use of micro-plastics in personal care products. Some companies are already in the process of removing them even before new regulation. One state, Illinois, has banned future production of products with micro-beads, but does allow the use of biodegradable plastics. These plastics will not break down naturally and cannot be washed down drains. They require processing at an industrial composting facility.

To do your part, do not use products that include the ingredient Polyethylene/Polypropylene. For more information, read the whitepaper from the New York State Attorney General on this issue. http://ag.ny.gov/pdfs/Microbeads_Report_5_14_14.pdf

Christopher Stutler Scholars Learn and Teach on the Sloop

By Isaac Santner, Onboard Educator

Clearwater’s education program depends heavily on the work of our amazing corps of volunteers. We have volunteers of all ages on the boat – from high school students, to Student Conservation Association interns, to retirees. Our Christopher Stutler Scholarship program is one of our favorite volunteer pipelines.

Each year, one or two Croton-on-Hudson students come sailing with us during the last couple of weeks of their senior year.



Christopher Stutler Scholars spend two weeks on the boat learning about the river, our education program and traditional seamanship. They also work closely with our education staff to prepare for an in-class visit to a school in Yonkers. During the in-class visit, the Scholars prepare the students for an upcoming field trip, and then

Photo taken by Stutler Scholar Allison Carr.

teach those students when they arrive at the boat.

This year, we were lucky enough to get two Christopher Stutler Scholars, Allison Carr and Diana DeFellipis, both of whom worked for two weeks aboard the *Clearwater* and the *Mystic Whaler*. They did an amazing job on all of our educational programming, and were natural teachers during the education sails. Allison is an amazing musician, and she used her talents to “Break Silence” and lead sing-alongs with students throughout the week. Diana is a talented artist, and created a diagram of the boat and its components for an in-class program that helped students prepare for the trip. They happily participated in maintenance projects, chores, and became really valued members of our community. We were all sad to see them go, and we wish them well at college next year.

Engaging high school students throughout the Hudson Valley onboard is an important part of our mission. When we get high school students excited about our work and about their own communities, we help create lifelong Hudson River stewards who value their memories of the *Clearwater* and think of the River as a home. If you are interested in volunteering on the boat, we always are looking for folks to come help us work and live onboard!





Citizen Scientists Explore a Hudson River “Sense of Place”

By Eli Schloss, Tideline Director

How do you get a sense of our estuary as a whole, this multifaceted place of infinite variables – tide, current, wind and weather? There are data flowing from the strategically placed HRECOS sensors, providing the reports everyone can see online at www.hrecos.org, but this is mere data to compare and contrast.

How might you get a more embracing – and educational – sense of the health and diversity of the estuary? The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) have found one excellent way, through the work of 3,000 citizen scientists, many of them schoolchildren. These scientists do not stop at the data; they consider the human influences, the animals, and the variables that make each moment different and unique in each river community.

These citizen scientists – students, teachers, and environmental educators – participate in “A Day in the Life of the Hudson River” event occurring annually on a designated day in October. As part of “National Estuaries Week,” environmental education centers team up with school classes in Hudson River communities to do hands-on research that creates a day-in-the-life portrait of the river. In past years, as many as 3,700 students and individuals gathering data at more than 70 sites, shared their results providing fresh and wide-ranging pictures of the historic and vital estuary system.

This year, Clearwater hosted Robert Graves Elementary 4th-graders and performed research at Esopus Meadows Environmental Center. We were happy to work once again with teacher Donna Nageli, whose students always come well-prepared and with a wonderful sense of exploration. The children are inevitably eager to dig into the shoreline to look for scuds, identify the fish that we catch, and clean the fall vegetation debris from the net. We also monitor the river traffic for north-bound oil barges and south-bound stone barges, and measure the changing tides and the speed of the current (see sidebar). The students make journal entries and drawings about

the landscape and their findings.

“A Day in the Life of the Hudson River” is a perfect complement to Clearwater’s Tideline program exploring the diversity of the estuary through multiple disciplines. “A sense of place” is the catch phrase we use to refer to the characteristics that make a place special and foster authentic human attachment and belonging. The sense of place among Hudson Valley residents is critical to maintaining the valley’s health and it emerges powerfully in those young citizens who participate in “A Day in the Life” and our other programs.

The river that flows both ways

Mohicanituck is the Algonkian word for the Hudson River Estuary and translates, “the river that flows both ways.” As an estuary, this seems obvious because an estuary is tidal. But tide refers to the vertical movement of the water, while current refers to the horizontal flow. They are related, but just because the tide is rising does not necessarily mean the current is flowing north. For example, if you look at the direction of the current at the Battery in Manhattan you will see that you can have northbound currents two hours after high water. This has to do with the huge volume of water that travels through the tidal strait between Long Island Sound and New York Harbor, commonly known as the East River. Another interesting phenomenon is the deep-channel current running one way, and the current along the shoreline flowing the other. This happens around the time of “slack current” and is caused by the greater volume and velocity of water in the channel. So for mariners, Eldridge’s Tide and Pilot Book combined with a basic understanding of tide and current behavior is as indispensable as food, water and fuel.

WHERE WE WORK



New Sails Needed, On a Tight Timetable

By Matt Soper, Development Director



The average lifespan for sails that get the amount of use those on the *Clearwater* do is roughly 10 years. It has been determined that if we try to stretch another season out of our current sails, we run the risk of a major tear that could compromise our sailing season. The fee-based programs on the *Clearwater* provide the organization with significant and vital income which could be jeopardized. There would be little charm for an environmental flagship that could only motor for all or part of a season – and besides, raising the mainsail is a powerful and symbolic team-building experience that is central to our onboard programs.

As you might imagine, procuring new sails for one of the tallest operational sailboats in America is neither a cheap nor quick process. Only a handful of companies in the United States can make a 3,000-square-foot, gaff-rigged mainsail. Sewing long bolts of a synthetic woven material with the needed grommets and hardware is a highly specialized skill. Nat Wilson, of Nat S. Wilson Sailmaker, Inc., based in East Boothbay, Maine, manufactured our last set of sails. We are very happy with the performance of these sails and plan to work with him again based on his familiarity with the project and lower shipping costs. (Most other vendors are on the west coast.)

The timing of the procurement of the sails is of vital importance.

In order for us to launch the *Clearwater* in mid-April 2015, the sails should be delivered to our winter home port in Kingston by April 1, 2015. This will give the crew ample time to hang the sails while the boat is wintering in Kingston and time to make alterations or fix problems as needed.



Photo by Vince Ferraro.

It's Boom Time Again

Shortly before the end of the 2014 season, a crack was discovered in the *Clearwater's* dozen-year-old boom. The crew removed the mainsail and splinted the boom to safely stabilize it, while modified educational programs were run to finish out the season. This winter, the boom, a 66-foot spar on the mainsail that runs fore-and-aft, must be replaced.

As soon as the need for a new boom was announced in late October, *Clearwater* supporters began coming forward with donations. It takes a village to keep a ship afloat, and given the large and caring *Clearwater* community, the sloop will surely be in fine shape to sail by spring.



Photo by Jacinta Early.

Give to this project online!

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/clearwater-sail-and-boom-project>

FROM THE SLOOP

Full Days On Board, Oohs, Ahs, Eews!

By Annika Savio, Captain

My favorite days on board are when there are two educational sails on the schedule. Those days go something like this: The person who has been on night watch provides wakeups at 0645. They might sing a song, or read a poem or a selection from a book to wake us and prepare everyone for our day. At 0700, we scrub the deck with salt water to wash away the grime of yesterday and keep the deck pickled, preserving it for the years to come. By the time the breakfast bell rings at 0730, we've worked up an appetite, and we ravenously consume whatever deliciousness the cook has prepared. By 0800, we're back to it, cleaning up from breakfast, and preparing for the nine o'clock sail.

When the school bus arrives, we begin a whirlwind educational program for our participants. Three hours is not a long time to get everyone on board and acquainted with our safety rules, raise the 3,000-square-foot mainsail, teach 48 students all we can about the Hudson River; then strike sail, and come safely back to the dock. We pack a ton of information into each trip, but in truth, the sail is more about experience than information. During every trip, we take a break to sail in silence for a few minutes, and encourage everyone to fully observe their surroundings. We break silence with a song, and we honor the music that built this boat and continues to be an avenue for positive change.

Our day is only half over when we get back to the dock at noon. Lunch is a quick affair, and then we turn to preparations for the next group. While the students on the second sail are often the same age and from the same school as those in the morning, the wind and current have changed, the educator has different activities planned – and each sail is new and different. When we return to the dock at 1600 after a second exciting sail, the day is still not over: We'll work on boat maintenance projects, extra training for crew and volunteers, or sometimes we will be in transit to a different dock for the next day's programs. Each workday ends with a second deck wash, and a (usually) more relaxed dinner, before the crew stands down for the evening.

Two-sail days can be exhausting. But twice the number of students means we earn double the rewards – seeing the effort etched on students' faces as they haul on the halyards, hearing their “oohs, ahs and eews” when they encounter an eel for the first time, and of course, their endless fascinating questions.

We had many “9-noon, 1-4” days last spring. That slowed somewhat after school was out, but we ran two excellent multi-day programs for young women and young men of the Hudson River watershed.

By the end of the summer, we had already taken about 4,350 people sailing, and were moving into our busy fall schedule of educational sailing trips.



Above, Maura Niemistö, Onboard Educator, breaks silence with a song during an educational sail.

We have been lucky to have numerous returning crew members this fall, plus a few people new to Clearwater. Check out these hardworking individuals on our web site: www.clearwater.org/the-sloop/crew/, or better yet, join us for a public sail or a dock visit. It is always a pleasure to meet members of Clearwater's expansive community. See you on the river!





CLEARWATER'S GREAT HUDSON RIVER REVIVAL *A Music & Environmental Festival*

It Was a Year to Remember

By Steve Lurie

More than 25,000 people came together at Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival on June 21 & 22 to honor co-founders Pete & Toshi Seeger. It was a memorable weekend that paid tribute to their incredible accomplishments. Highlights included the Clearwater Family Band, a special square dance to remember how Pete and Toshi met, a banjo tribute to Pete – and much more. There was also a very beautiful "Pete & Toshi walkway" near the Activist Area with many pictures and remembrances. We want to thank the Revival Planning Committee (pictured below) and our 1000+ volunteers for all of their hard work, dedication and support. Without our amazing volunteers, Revival would not be possible. We'd also like to thank all of our artists, vendors and sponsors. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Bottom left and middle left photos by Econsmith, RPC photo by Steve Weinstock. All other photos by Julia Church.





All photos by Econosmith, except top middle, and top four photos in right hand column, which are by Julia Church.

Mark Your Calendars! Next year's Clearwater Festival will be June 20 - 21, 2015!

Clearwater Environmental Action is Bustling with Activity

By Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Action Director



From the Battery to the headwaters, Clearwater's Environmental Action staff, Board members and volunteers are actively engaged in protecting and preserving the ecology of the Hudson River and the well-being of all who live in its watershed. In addition to opposing hydraulic fracking for so-called 'natural' gas, Clearwater is very concerned about the various pipelines, compressor stations and other infrastructure that is being proposed. Investment in gas infrastructure represents dollars not being put into clean, fuel-free renewables and energy efficiency – delaying the transition to a truly Green Energy Economy that is so urgently needed.

Recent projects include supporting grassroots activists to oppose the proposed 42-inch Algonquin Pipeline planned to cross under the Hudson deep in the sediments from Stony Point to Verplanck. This would replace a 26-inch pipeline, which carries gas to New England, that is located immediately south of Unit-3 on the Indian Point property. The new line would be placed one half mile south of Indian Point – which is located at the intersection of two major earthquake faults – still much too close for comfort.

Clearwater worked with the Rockland Water Coalition to successfully oppose United Water's expensive, energy-intensive and unnecessary 10-million gallon per day desalination plant proposed for Haverstraw Bay, a critical aquatic habitat, which provides important spawning ground and nursery for striped bass, shad, white perch, Atlantic tomcod, the endangered Atlantic sturgeon, bay anchovy and blue crab. American eel and shortnose sturgeon are also found in Haverstraw Bay. Other examples of crucial fish habitats where degradation must be prevented include the Kingston Flats, which is an important shad breeding ground. Further north, we have joined with the Coeymans Heritage Society and North River Friends of Clearwater in opposing a zoning ordinance which would allow the expansion of the Port of Coeymans, endangering the Onesthequa-Coeymans Creek and the Coeymans-Hannacroix Complex, which has been designated as a "Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Area." The proposed development has the potential to appreciably degrade this waterway, which serves as spawning ground for a number of Hudson River migratory and resident fish, including alewife, blueback herring, white and yellow perch, shad, white sucker, spottail shiner and the endangered shortnose sturgeon.

Clearwater to Promote Hudson River Health Advisory:

Speaking of fish, the NY State Department of Health recently awarded Clearwater a grant to educate communities about the health advice on eating Hudson River fish, that can contain significant concentrations of



NYS DOH advises that "no one should eat Hudson River catfish or American eel" because they are

so contaminated with PCBs. There is also an "eat none" fish consumption advisory for children under 15 and women under 50 throughout the river. Adult males and women over 50 can eat limited quantities of fish or crab, which vary by location. Photos courtesy of <http://www.dec.ny.gov/nimals/52634.html>



PCBs. Health advisories warn women below 50 (of childbearing age) and children under age 15 not to eat any Hudson River fish. The advice for men and older women depends upon where they fish on the river and what they catch. See www.health.ny.gov/hudsonriverfish. Initially, Clearwater will be working at the waterfronts and on board the Sloop to get the message out in Peekskill, Beacon, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and Kingston, and will expand to communities north and south over the next two years.

Hudson River PCB CleanUp:

A new partnership for the Upper Hudson

Finally some good news. First, General Electric is making good progress in the fifth year of the Hudson River PCB remediation.

Recently a large coalition of upper Hudson municipalities, the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Partnership, have joined Clearwater and our sister river organizations in calling for the cleanup of an additional 136 acres of PCB-contaminated sediments, including dredging the channel to restore full use by commercial shipping vessel, as well as remediation of the floodplains and backwaters. We are hopeful that the Partnership will prevail and a truly world class cleanup will result in a well-restored upper Hudson River.



Indian Point Update: NRC agrees

to long-term on-site storage of nuclear waste

On August 26, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved the Continued Storage Rule allowing indefinite storage of spent – but still highly radioactive – fuel rods at nuclear power plants. Clearwater then reactivated two legal contentions about environmental and safety impact of on-site storage at Indian Point, where rods are kept in severely overcrowded fuel pools and dry cask storage. On November 10, the Atomic Safety Licensing Board dismissed the contentions on legal technicalities related to timeliness and scope -- leaving the 20 million people living or working within 50 miles of Indian Point at risk of a fuel pool failure or fire.

Protective Outages:

In a related matter, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is considering reinstituting protective outages to reduce fish kill at Indian Point due to impingement on water intake screens or entrainment in the once-through cooling system, and from thermal shock from heated discharge water. While Clearwater, Riverkeeper and others believe that closed-cycle cooling is still the best technology available if the plant were to be relicensed – we have urged DEC to implement full-season outages to reduce fish mortality, while closed cycle cooling is designed, permitted and constructed. More than that, however, we oppose the relicensing of this aging, leaking, dangerous facility for many reasons – not the least of which is to stop generating more high-level radioactive waste.

For more information on Clearwater's Environmental Action initiatives, please contact: Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Action Director, at MannaJo@Clearwater.org, or (845) 265-8080, x7113.

Engaging Environmental Stewards in Urban Communities

By Omari Washington, Clearwater Green Cities Coordinator

The goal of Clearwater's Green Cities Initiative is to assist Hudson River cities in incorporating principles of sustainability into all phases of municipal and community planning through community-based programs. By providing this support on various levels, it is our hope that environmental stewardship does not remain the burden of a few dedicated individuals, but rather becomes a fun and engaging civic exercise drawing widespread participation among community members to effectively transform the urban environment in Hudson River cities such as Peekskill, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie – our current target communities.

A major focus of Green Cities is to cultivate groups of municipal officials and empowered citizens who act to protect our watershed. Some local groups have been in existence, in one shape or another, for 20 years, such as the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance (QCWA) in Newburgh. Currently, QCWA works in partnership with the Newburgh Armory Unity Center, Clearwater, Groundworks and others to provide watershed education to elementary school-aged

In all three of these projects, Green Cities curriculum is being developed and piloted for use in cities throughout the region, to prepare urban youth for green jobs that will transform their communities.

youths. The students design and construct a rain garden to be a model of the Quassaick Creek Watershed, and also a fitness trail on either side of the creek and around Muchattoes Lake. The children have nicknamed the lake "Muchachos Lake" and have really taken ownership of it!

Other urban watershed groups we work with, such as Poughkeepsie's Fallkill Watershed Committee, have blossomed over the last decade. Here, Clearwater partnered with Nubian Directions and Greenway Environmental to promote watershed awareness and work with GED students on stormwater management projects, as part of the YouthBuild Americorps training program, which also includes Green Building training. Also, our Poughkeepsie Urban Water Forums will encourage community members to volunteer to install green stormwater projects on their own property.

The newest group, the Peekskill Urban Watershed Committee (PUWC), is very active. This summer the Urban Water

Stewards, made up of high school students from the Peekskill Youth Bureau, completed an EPA-funded urban waters training program and reported to municipal officials and community members. Inspired by the Urban Water Stewards and motivated by their own interest in protecting Peekskill's water resources, the PUWC will create a watershed management plan.

In all three of these projects, Clearwater's Green Cities curriculum is being developed and piloted for use in cities throughout the region, to prepare urban youth for green jobs that will transform their communities.



Orange County Soil & Water Conservation District environmental educator, Ed Helbig, helping Newburgh Armory Unity students to understand their watershed at Muchattoes Lake.



Welcome, Omari Washington, Green Cities Coordinator

Omari Washington joined Clearwater in July as Green Cities Coordinator. The Green Cities initiative works to bring environmental education, watershed awareness and stewardship training to under-served Hudson River Valley communities, especially their young people.

Clearwater's Environmental Action director, Manna Jo Greene, said, "Omari is the ideal person to grow this initiative, which was very much a part of Clearwater founder Pete Seeger's vision for the organization's future." The Green Cities initiative is part of Clearwater's community-based environmental work under Greene's direction.

As a former New York City resident, Washington worked

on various sustainability initiatives, and served as an education committee co-chair for MillionTreesNYC, the signature program of former Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC 2030.

Washington also worked with the New York Restoration Project, where he created, implemented and evaluated innovative environmental education programs, and managed a team of educators. Those programs educated thousands of New York City youths about the urban environment in community gardens, parks and schoolyards.

In April 2012, he was a select attendee at the first White House Summit on Environmental Education, presented by the EPA. In 2010, he was a Fellow at the Center for Whole Communities. Washington is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Urban Environmental Systems Management at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. He is currently a resident of Newburgh.



Holiday Giving

When you make a purchase from the Clearwater Store, you are not only buying a gift for yourself or a loved one – you are helping to support Clearwater's educational programs and environmental advocacy.



Clearwater Baseball Shirts

Show your team pride with a Clearwater baseball shirt sporting a unique sloop Clearwater stencil designed by a former crew member. Shirts are 90% cotton, 10% polyester, with ¾ length raglan sleeves. Available in Men's and Women's styles, S, M, L, XL, 2XL **\$30.00**



New! Clearwater Sunburst Hoodie

Stay cozy in a super-soft Clearwater hoodie. Unisex style, 50% organic cotton 50% RPET recycled polyester. Made in the USA. S, M, L, XL **\$50.00**

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A 2-DVD set that chronicles the 2009 Clearwater concert at Madison Square Garden held in honor of Pete Seeger's 90th birthday. **\$35.00**



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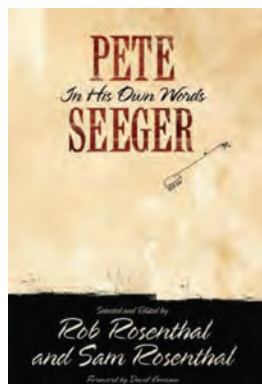


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Hear directly from Pete in this volume presenting the most intimate portrait of him now available. His personal letters, notes to himself, published articles, rough drafts, stories and poetry are collected here, offering Pete's own perspective on life as a musician, activist and family man. This book covers the passions, personalities and experiences of a lifetime of struggle: the pre-WWII labor movement, the Communist Party, Woody Guthrie, the blacklist, Civil Rights, Martin Luther King, the anti-Vietnam war movement, Bob Dylan, the Hudson River cleanup, Granny D Haddock, Fidel Castro, Bill Clinton and countless activists with whom Pete worked and sang.

He gives us a portrait of a flesh-and-blood man, striving to understand his gift, his time and place. **\$29.95**

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To order, visit us online at www.clearwater.org/clearwater-store/ or call Erin at (845) 265-8080 x7101.

If your order is being sent as a gift, please include packing and shipping instructions. Holiday delivery is guaranteed only on orders placed by December 13th. No PO Box or foreign deliveries, please.



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All holiday orders over \$30 will include a free HRS Clearwater patch, and orders over \$50 will include a free HRS Clearwater sling backpack (both pictured at left). Expires January 1st.



Saugerties Morse After School Power of Song with Wyatt Buesing, Power of Song apprentice.

Photo by Bob Yahr

Like the Song Says, “Ch-ch-ch-Changes!”

By Linda Richards, Music Director & Events Coordinator

Clearwater’s Power of Song program grew out of the performance and activism techniques of Clearwater founder Pete Seeger. Working with Pete four years ago, Clearwater started a program for the next generation of “cause musicians” in the Hudson Valley: the Power of Song Apprentice Program.

This original blueprint has grown and changed and is now offered to communities in a variety of formats – as a school assembly, songwriting workshops, after-school programs, teacher training and an ongoing program for teenagers who perform at community events.

Throughout history, music has been a catalyst for change, a medium for protest, and a means to deliver a message of hope. The Power of Song, in all of its versions, is an interactive learning experience that exposes Hudson Valley students and community members to socially conscious music and empowers them to be active on issues that concern them, through song.

Music has long been a giant piece of the Clearwater world. The organization’s roots are music and the time to revitalize the music dimension has never been more pressing. We all know the impact of the participatory song, and young people need to be nurtured in this technique.

Clearwater is always looked to as the music organization of the Hudson Valley. As we move into Clearwater’s next evolution, I am thrilled to take on the role of Music Director. It will be a unique honor to sow the seeds scattered by Pete to cultivate a new generation of

I have had the extreme pleasure of working on the Power of Song since its inception and can report these results:

- 25 apprentices have performed in 55 venues for approximately 9,000 people since 2010.
- 30 Cold Spring middle school kids have participated in a seasonal after-school program during the last three years and performed at their Eco Fest.
- 200 “Healthy Kids” after-school students participated in six-week workshops.
- Power of Song assembly programs and workshops involved over 3,000 students.

thoughtful, active citizens through music and help to bring old friends together with renewed purpose.

Every second is the best second, and when we listen and join, music sings out that message.

Contact Linda Richards at Music@Clearwater.org, 845-265-8080, x7105 to schedule a Power of Song program, find out how to become a music apprentice, or for more information.

Welcome New Clearwater Staff!

Shameika Hanson, Volunteer Coordinator

Shameika ("Mimi") Hanson has joined Clearwater as the organization's new Volunteer & Events Support Coordinator. Becoming part of Clearwater's newly constituted Music, Volunteer Coordination & Events Support department in August, Hanson assumed responsibility for coordination of volunteers at all Clearwater events, including the Hudson River Revival Festival.

"Mimi's abundance of energy, enthusiasm for Clearwater's programs and ideals, and solid environmental background make her a great addition to our Clearwater team," said Linda Richards, Clearwater's Director of Music & Events.

Hanson is a lifelong resident of Huntington Station, Long Island, NY – and in addition to being a Festival volunteer, she has volunteered extensively in her home community, helping to organize an annual show for Black History Month, and other charitable events such as food drives. She has also interned for former Town of Huntington councilwoman, Glenda A. Jackson; Huntington's director of sustainability, Terese M. Kinsley; and Suffolk County 18th District legislator, Dr. William R. Spencer.

Hanson earned her Associate's degree from Nassau Community College in Communications, with a focus on interpersonal relationship skills, in 2010. Subsequently, she attended Stony Brook University, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Humanities in May 2014.

Toni Martin, Communications Director

Antoinette "Toni" Martin joined Clearwater as Communications Director in July. In this role, Martin handles all media relations, including content for the Clearwater.org website.

Martin brings to Clearwater a broad and extensive journalism background, ranging from being a real-estate columnist for The New York Times to a feature writer for the Detroit Free Press and from political writing for the Hartford Courant to being Arts editor of The Montclair Times. In one previous position, as a communicator at Rutgers University, she specialized in science and medicine, and she has been an editor with several web sites and is a published essayist.

"I couldn't be happier to be working with Clearwater; an organization with richly diverse programs centered on a single purpose – revitalizing the Hudson River," said Martin. "As Clearwater begins the post-Pete Seeger era and new leadership joins those who've been committed for decades, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to play a role in helping the organization continue to



inspire, educate, advocate and motivate."

Peter Gross, Clearwater's executive director, said, "Clearwater is fortunate and delighted to welcome Toni as part of our team and to benefit from her experience and skill as a communicator; her understanding of traditional journalism as well as electronic media, her keen sense of Clearwater's programs and projects and her appreciation of our ideals, values and mission."

Martin is a new resident of Clearwater's home city of Beacon, having relocated from her long-time residence in Montclair, NJ. A California native, she obtained her B.A. from UC Berkeley, where she was editor-in-chief of The Daily Californian.

Matt Soper, Director of Development

Matt Soper has joined Hudson River Sloop Clearwater as Director of Development. In this role, he will be responsible for creating strategies to increase individual giving, foundation and government support, corporate sponsorships, planned giving, and membership.

Soper brings extensive experience in major gift fundraising, annual giving and foundation support, and has also worked closely with volunteer boards and development committees. Prior to joining Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Soper served as Director of Development at Bard College and Associate Director of Leadership Gifts at Vassar College. Earlier in his career, he was Director of the Community Service Center at New York University and a technology salesman in San Francisco.



"Having grown up in the Hudson Valley, I've always admired the leading role Pete Seeger and Clearwater have played in cleaning up the Hudson. Joining Clearwater is an exciting opportunity to play a key role with an iconic organization that has deep grassroots connections, unique educational programs, and a strong political and musical voice. I look forward to helping build a stronger, more diverse base of support to enable Clearwater to continue its work on crucial environmental issues that affect us all."

"Clearwater is excited to bring Matt onboard," said Peter Gross, Executive Director, in announcing the appointment. "The wealth of development experience and knowledge he brings, as well as his familiarity with foundations and nonprofits, will be invaluable to Clearwater. I look forward to working with Matt in continuing to increase our funding base, which will help expand the scope and impact of Clearwater's programs."

Soper received his Masters in Non-Profit Management from New York University Gallatin School, and his BA in Philosophy from Vassar College. Matt is a Town of New Paltz youth soccer and basketball coach, Vassar College Admission Volunteer and has served as fundraising consultant for Elting Library and Dutchess County Red Cross. He and his family live in New Paltz, NY.

Omari Washington, Green Cities Coordinator

(Omari Washington is welcomed on page 13 of this issue.)



Clearwater Marches, Sails at People's Climate March

At the People's Climate March on September 27th, Clearwater helped to create the sea of 400,000 souls flowing through the streets of New York City to demand meaningful action on climate change. Our volunteers marched in the Nuclear Free, Carbon Free contingent, our Walkabout Clearwater Chorus walked about and made joyful music – and off-street, on river, the sloop *Clearwater* participated by flying a huge "Climate Change" banner as she sailed around Manhattan. *Clearwater* First Mate, Carlos Duran, supplied the photo of the sloop in her glory that day, helping spread the message in her own unique way.



NYS Grant to Support Sloop Restoration

Clearwater Executive Director, Peter Gross and Finance Director, Roger D'Aquino celebrate the arrival of the "NYS Environmental Protection Fund" sign to be affixed to the sloop for the duration of the project. Earlier this year, NY State awarded Clearwater with a grant that will support a three-year long restoration of the sloop. The funds make possible a USCG-mandated restoration of the vessel, which is recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Restoring the sloop will allow *Clearwater* to continue to serve children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley for many years to come.

Group Education Sails, Public Sails and Private Charters Available April - October

The sloop *Clearwater* sails the Hudson River from April to the end of October and is joined by her sister ship, the schooner *Mystic Whaler* every spring until mid-June.

Group Education: Custom-designed programs in art, science, math, history, and literature support common core standards and can accommodate students in grades 4 through college. Your group will help raise the sails, sing sea shanties, navigate the boat, visit learning stations to examine riverlife and perform water quality tests, and study plankton and other invertebrate life under field magnification. Students learn the history and ecology of the river through inquiry-based, hands-on experiences, and are inspired to become responsible environmental stewards.

Private Events: The sloop *Clearwater* is available to host your next event! The deck of a historic tall ship is a unique and engaging venue for your wedding, family gathering, fundraiser, private party or corporate team-building experience.

Public Sails: Clearwater also hosts sails open to the public. Check our schedule listed on Clearwater.org – or call any time – to see when you can join us for our next public sailing adventure!

For more information about sailing, send us an e-mail at Sail@Clearwater.org, or give us a call (845) 265-8080 x7107.

Clearwater's Corporate Members:



Give To Clearwater At The Office!

An [EarthShare payroll deduction](http://EarthShare) is one simple way to donate to Clearwater or more than 400 other environmental and conservation charities. For more information, go to www.earthshare.org or contact Ann Mellor at Ann@Clearwater.org.



thank you!

We would like to thank the following people who gave so generously to Clearwater with a special gift, above and beyond their annual membership, between March 1, 2014 and August 31, 2014.

For more information, or to make your donation, please contact Ann Mellor at (845) 265-8080, x7119, or at Ann@Clearwater.org.



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Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's longtime strategy of inspiring, educating, and activating people is a powerful formula for success. Utilizing the greatest natural resource in the region – the Hudson River – Clearwater has become the grassroots model for change to protect our planet.

Clearwater's efforts to defend and restore the Hudson River depend on the support of its members. When you join Clearwater, you are part of a great community of members and volunteers who are working for a better future and believe that individuals can make a difference in bringing about a cleaner, greener, safer world.

Clearwater Membership Benefits:

- ◆ A subscription to the *Clearwater Navigator* – our newsletter that covers all our top stories and provides updates on Clearwater activities, events and initiatives.
- ◆ An opportunity to volunteer as an educator aboard the sloop *Clearwater*, or our sister ship, the schooner *Mystic Whaler*.
- ◆ 10% discount on all Clearwater merchandise.
- ◆ Discounted admission and an opportunity to volunteer at Clearwater's annual music and environmental festival, the Great Hudson River Revival.
- ◆ Discounts on Public Sailing Adventures.
- ◆ A vote in the election of Clearwater's Board of Directors.

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Albany NY

Peter Gross Takes the Helm as Clearwater Executive Director

Last May, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Board of Directors named Peter Gross as the organization's Executive Director, effective immediately. Gross, a resident of South Salem, NY, was tapped to lead the organization and bring to bear his extensive nonprofit and business experience, sixteen years of top-level global and national leadership with Plan USA and Plan International, and a strong record of leadership on numerous boards involved in cultural activities, social justice, environmental stewardship, and political reform and advocacy for public-health as well as women's and children's issues.

As Clearwater Executive Director, Gross is responsible for supervising all programs and operations, including developing and overseeing strategic plans and fundraising goals. He is also in charge of furthering relationships with Hudson Valley partners and broadening Clearwater's base of support and the impact of Clearwater's activities.

"I am thrilled to be leading this wonderful organization," Gross said. "It has given me the opportunity to combine my nonprofit, business, and concert backgrounds with my passion for intelligent innovation and positive change, as well as my lifelong interests in music, education, grass-roots advocacy, social justice and the environment, and work to help achieve a mission in which I believe deeply."

Gross noted that Clearwater has made remarkable progress in achieving a cleaner Hudson River and in educating the next generation to be its stewards – and also established a vibrant tradition of celebrating the Hudson through music and song. "I am proud to be a part of the celebration and fun, and part of the community-building strength found in the Power of Song," Gross said.

Following college, Gross worked as a program developer in

the anti-poverty program, and was involved in the design of Project Head Start and other initiatives. After graduating from law school, he specialized in corporate finance and mergers at a New York law firm. He was part of the original management team that transformed HBO into a major national network and was also involved as a lawyer and advisor in the early stages of USA Network, Comedy Central, C-Net and various print publications.

Gross is a former chair of Time-Life Video and co-founder/CEO of the largest private media company in China. He developed and staged concerts with world-class local and ethnically diverse performers, and developed and produced "In Transit," a celebrated concert featuring the best of the NYC subway performers at Lincoln Center, as well as numerous free lunchtime concerts in New York City streets and parks.

Dr. William Flank, Clearwater Board member and head of the Search Committee that named Gross to the job, said, "Clearwater sought a leader with proven management ability who would be able to lead the organization forward in fulfilling our mission in a changing world by helping to respond to issues, build and maintain financial stability and forge consensus for change, while remaining faithful to our underlying values. I am pleased to say that in Peter Gross, we have found an outstanding person to accomplish that."

