



**RIVERKEEPER.**  
NY's clean water advocate



2017 ANNUAL JOURNAL



The Hudson at  
Dennings Point,  
Beacon.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NEIL O'DONNELL

## PRESIDENTS LETTER

# Driving change



### **Riverkeeper's second half-century of clean water advocacy is off to a big start.**

We're expanding to the far reaches of the Hudson watershed. Rising to meet the flood of new challenges triggered by punitive cuts to EPA staffing. Going all in with local advocates fighting for safe drinking water, clean power and rivers teeming with life.

While the threats we face are enormous, the opportunities are even bigger.

- In January, Riverkeeper joined with New York State and partner groups to announce perhaps our biggest victory ever — the closure, in 2021, of Indian Point, America's most dangerous nuclear power plant. This signal achievement cuts 14 years off of Indian Point's operating plan, saves a billion fish a year and allows us to rebuild New York's energy supply around renewable, efficient sources of power.
- In April, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the Legislature approved a historic, \$2.5 billion investment in water infrastructure. New York's decades-long failure to invest in clean water is officially over; safe drinking water and healthy rivers are now top priorities, here in the Empire State.

In 2016 — Riverkeeper's 50th year — we heard the call for clean water echo from the Hudson's source in the Adirondacks to New York Harbor. This call rang from the farthest reach of the Mohawk River — the Hudson's largest tributary — to the tip of local streams like the Wynants Kill, in Troy, where fish now run free for the first time in 85 years, thanks to a pioneering dam removal project led by Riverkeeper. It sounded in each of the 400 locations where Riverkeeper and its partners test water quality and in all 100 communities where we run shoreline cleanups.

While Congress decides how big a meat axe to take to the EPA, we're redoubling our fight for 30,000 City of Newburgh residents who recently learned that their drinking water has been poisoned for the past 20 years. As Big Oil lays plans to turn the Hudson into a crude oil superhighway, we're in court and in local villages, leading a people's movement to prevent half a century of clean water gains from succumbing to the inevitable oil spills that follow such plans. As New York City seeks a renewed waiver of drinking water filtration rules, we're demanding tough new measures to protect our water resources at their source.

With Indian Point closing and water infrastructure spending finally back on the rise, New York is setting a national standard for water and energy policy. As Riverkeeper begins its second half-century of clean water advocacy, we're setting some standards of our own, here on the mighty Hudson.

*Paul Gallay*

Paul Gallay, President and Hudson Riverkeeper



**OUR MISSION:** Riverkeeper is a member-supported watchdog organization dedicated to defending the ecological integrity of the Hudson River and its tributaries, and to safeguarding the drinking water of nine million New York City and Hudson Valley Residents.

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PHOTO BY FRIENDS OF BUSHWICK INLET PARK

**Get Involved**

**Members**

A gift of any amount makes you a member, and full membership benefits start with annual donations of \$40. Our Sustainers Program includes members who make monthly donations—the most valuable kind of gift because we can count on your continued support while reducing overhead costs. Contact Kristie Nilsson at ext. 243.

**Junior Council**

The Junior Council is an active group of young professionals who serve as Riverkeeper ambassadors and are dedicated to increasing Riverkeeper's awareness through events, social media and fundraising. Contact Kristie Nilsson at ext. 243.

**Gifts of Stock**

Riverkeeper accepts gifts of appreciated stock, which are sold upon receipt to support our work and programs. Contact Monica Gutierrez at ext. 246.

**Estate Planning**

Planned giving is a lasting way of ensuring our clean water mission endures for generations. Special gifts can be achieved through bequests or charitable trusts, and can include real estate, bonds or other tangible assets. Contact Linde Ostro at ext. 229.

**Workplace Giving**

A growing number of employees for major corporations and government agencies have access to EarthShare New York, making it easy to designate Riverkeeper as the beneficiary of charitable giving via payroll deduction. Contact Kristie Nilsson at ext. 243.

**Business Membership**

Businesses support Riverkeeper in a variety of ways, including through

direct donations, sponsorship of EcoSalons and the Riverkeeper Sweep, through purchase of tickets to our Fishermen's Ball, and through participation in our corporate volunteerism and engagement programs. Contact Linde Ostro at ext. 229.

**Volunteers, Activists, Fans and Friends**

When it's time to make a big noise, Riverkeeper needs its supporters. Sign up to stay informed about issues and special events, and to take action by visiting our "Get Involved" page on Riverkeeper.org.

**Join Us On Social Media**



**Contact Us**

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**On the cover:**  
The Hudson at Dockside  
Park, Cold Spring.  
Photography:  
MichaelNeilODonnell.com



**PATROL LOG**  
*Riverkeeper Captain John Lipscomb reports from the river.*



**WESTCHESTER CREEK** We're running a new 20-foot shallow draft boat now, in addition to *the Fletcher*. It has allowed us to expand patrols to shallow water bodies such as poor Westchester Creek, a tidal tributary to the upper East River.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

**FLUSHING BAY** Now you see 'em, now you don't.... Through a coordinated effort using boat patrols, community partners, communications and advocacy, we were able to persuade the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove two derelict barges from Flushing Bay. The barges were filled with Styrofoam which was escaping and drifting all over the East River. Still, it took a year. If these barges had drifted up in front of Battery Park they would have been gone in a week. We need "Environmental Justice" for our waterways as well as for our citizens.



**NEWTOWN CREEK** In November we patrolled with Pam Elardo, DEP Deputy Commissioner for wastewater treatment. I was really impressed. She seems all business. We hope NYC gives her the money and manpower she wants to improve NY Harbor. We showed some of the contamination we've measured. She said, "We're not going to invest a lot to clean this up because nobody is using this water." We pointed out that wildlife and humans *would* use these waterways if they were not continually crapped in by NYC. I think we both learned from the exchange.



**MOHAWK RIVER** We were on the Mohawk again in 2016 — as far west as Rome. The shores are less settled than on the Hudson Estuary, which means we have fewer partners with eyes on the River. Lock operators at the 20 locks between Troy and Rome are turning out to be really valuable contacts. They are like lighthouse keepers — on station every day, super-intimate with local conditions. Little Falls offers a glimpse of how beautiful the River must have been before it was sacrificed to enable the Erie Canal.



**WILDLIFE** Piermont Pier is heavily used for recreational fishing. Rockland Audubon has installed tubes so that broken fishing line can be safely removed from the shoreline environment. If you fish — or if you simply walk the shoreline — please pick up and remove any fishing line. The line snares and kills birds — ghost hooks keep killing. We've seen a gull drowned by fishing line on a bulkhead (top center.) We've rescued one which had line around its wing, and another with a hook through its beak. Good on you Audubon! Please let's all help.

**ERIE CANAL** At left, October in the Erie Canal locks near Waterford. "Young of year" herring starting their migration to the Atlantic from the Mohawk are stunned by the lock's plumbing, then get picked off by gulls.

Sometimes we get to witness just how harsh and unforgiving life is for wild creatures. The struggle for life is relentless. I am humbled and feel nothing but admiration.



# *From Source to Sea*

» **It's a proud moment:** Riverkeeper is taking its mission farther than ever before, reaching into the headwaters of the Hudson and out to the edge of the ocean, fulfilling the mission "source to sea."



WATER QUALITY

# Source of inspiration

*Our science partners ascended Mount Marcy and found a new vision of what's possible for the Hudson River.*

**IN AUGUST 2016**, Riverkeeper's two longtime science collaborators hiked into the High Peaks of the Adirondacks to collect water samples at the Hudson's source, Lake Tear of the Clouds.

It was a milestone in a 10-year partnership that created Riverkeeper's water quality monitoring program, which continues to expand and drive discussion on how to reduce pollution. We piloted the program in the lower Hudson in 2006, and started routine monitoring along the tidal Hudson in 2008. Community scientists have extended the effort, volunteering their time to sample in 12 tributaries and at more than 40 public access points around New York City.

The samples collected from Lake Tear of the Clouds and downstream to Newcomb, N.Y., completed a first-ever snapshot of water quality along the entire 315-mile Hudson – from Mount Marcy, the highest peak in the Adirondacks, an elevation of 4,295 feet, to the shadow of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.

"I hadn't appreciated what a fun little mountain stream the Hudson starts out as," said Andrew Juhl, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. "Super-clear, cool water running over the rocks, and it makes that sound like laughing."

They were the first samples we've gathered in the headwaters of the river that we have worked to protect ever since Riverkeeper's founding, 50 years ago. Our program tests for a fecal indicator that points to sewage problems and other human influence. Some have cited wildlife as a source of contamination, but here, despite wooded surroundings populated by ducks, birds, and bears, the water tested clean.

"It is a privilege to share our experiences with this beautiful river," said Gregory O'Mullan, Ph.D., Associate Professor at CUNY Queens College, "especially from the less traveled, more pristine areas that provide a glimpse into what is possible in all parts of the river."

**OPPOSITE** In the Hudson's headwaters, a "sound like laughing" at Opalescent River, left, and Riverkeeper science partners Andrew Juhl and Gregory O'Mullan at Lake Tear of the Clouds.

**THIS PAGE** Newcomb, N.Y., in the Hudson River headwaters.



**RIVERKEEPER'S WATER QUALITY PROGRAM**

Riverkeeper's water quality monitoring project continues to grow. In 2016 we took 14,400 different measurements of water quality. These include not only fecal bacteria but measures of algae, nutrients, microbial DNA, tracers of wastewater like sucralose and caffeine, and a suite of "micropollutants" such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides and industrial compounds.

**In 2016**

**4,750**  
water samples collected

**400**  
locations

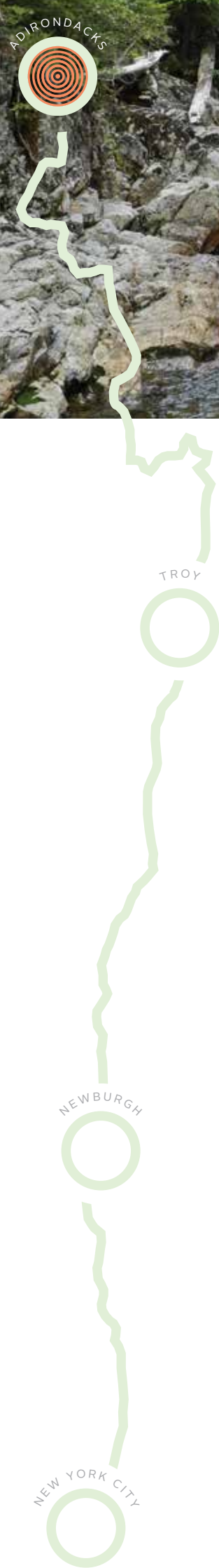
**795**  
river miles

**165**  
community scientists

**16**  
community science projects



Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper Water Quality Program Director, takes a water sample.





## RIVERKEEPER'S HISTORIC BATTLE AGAINST GE PCBs RAGES ON

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation stepped up the fight to rid the Hudson River of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls. Its independent report, released in late 2016, found that dredging performed by General Electric to clean up a portion of the PCBs from the Hudson River was not protective of human health or the environment. The state called on the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate contamination in the river below the Federal Dam at Troy.

DEC's report confirms what Riverkeeper has been arguing for years: there's much more contamination in the river than anticipated, the fish consumption advisories are not working, and the decades-long delay for recovery of the river is unacceptable. Riverkeeper has called on GE to remove the additional PCBs, a probable carcinogen, yet GE and EPA have refused. We're now at a critical turning point: In 2017 the EPA must answer an essential question as part of a five-year review: Is the cleanup protective of human health and the environment?

In the decades since GE dumped millions of pounds of PCBs from its plants in Hudson Falls and Fort Edwards, much has been done to undo the damage. But much work remains. In 2002, GE agreed to clean up PCBs north of the Federal Dam by dredging the sediment. Even though the contamination is much greater than initially thought, the EPA did not require additional dredging, and company ended the dredging operation in 2015.

Riverkeeper will make its case forcefully, supported by the law and technical expertise. And while GE is requesting that EPA certify the completion of its obligations, there still may be opportunities for legal challenges under federal Superfund law. One of Riverkeeper's historic campaigns is far from over.



# A confluence for clean water

A heron on the Wallkill River.



PHOTO BY KAARE CHRISTIAN

Volunteer Martin Overington gathers samples at Roeliff Jansen Kill, a tributary of the Hudson.

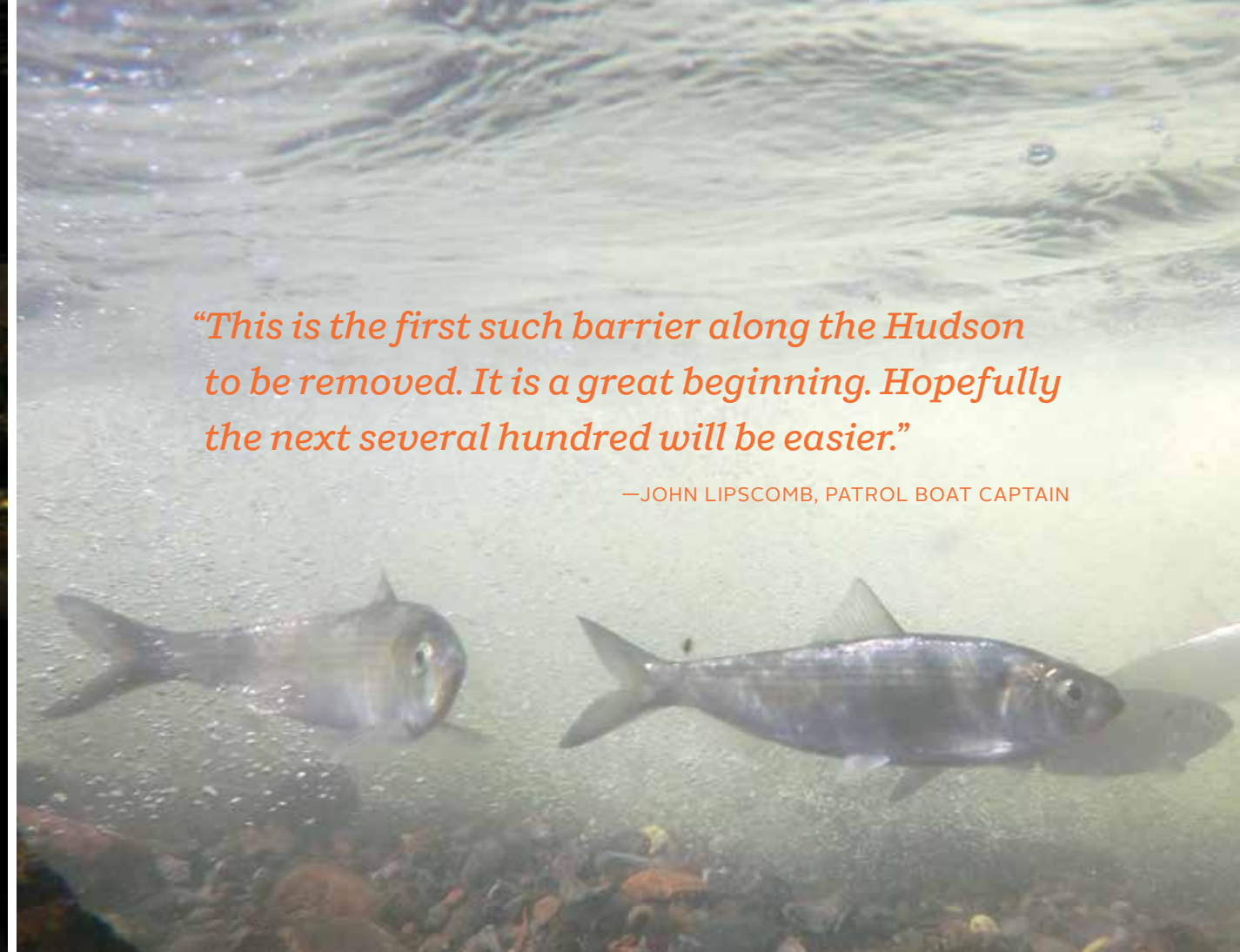
## WATER QUALITY

*We did it! With more data and more citizen activists driving change, New York has agreed to make a historic \$2.5 billion investment in clean water infrastructure, toxic waste remediation and the protection of drinking water sources.*

**A** HALF A CENTURY AGO, New York State voters approved the Pure Waters Bond Act, making the state a national leader in clean water protection at the dawn of the environmental movement. We're proud to report that with Riverkeeper's patrol, data and advocacy leading the public debate, our state is once again taking the lead.

In April, Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Legislature passed a \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act, a huge boost to Riverkeeper's efforts to stop sewage overflows and protect drinking water at its source. This historic investment builds on the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015, which has catalyzed hundreds of millions of dollars in badly needed investments in the Hudson River Watershed. The most dramatic investments target sewer overflows in the Capital District, the Mohawk River and several cities, with \$283 million committed to projects to reduce pollution in the Hudson River Watershed in 2016 alone.

We've been making the case for this kind of robust investment since our sampling program began in 2006, and our work to pass the Sewage Pollution Right to Know Law in 2012 helped shine a bright light on sewer failures. The value of restoring the creeks feeding the river will become better understood as communities adopt a new tool, a Riverkeeper "scorecard" for protecting drinking water at the source. With investments of time and effort, the momentum continues to grow.



*“This is the first such barrier along the Hudson to be removed. It is a great beginning. Hopefully the next several hundred will be easier.”*

—JOHN LIPSCOMB, PATROL BOAT CAPTAIN

Alewives are seen returning to the Wynants Kill days after removal of a dam that blocked passage for 85 years. See the NYSDEC’s “Alewife spawning habitat” video on YouTube.

## RESTORATION

# Clearing a dam, reviving a stream

*The landmark dam removal at Wynants Kill — a collaboration by Riverkeeper, DEC and the City of Troy — points the way to new opportunities to restore fish habitat in the Hudson Valley.*

**WHEN RIVERKEEPER’S CAPTAIN** John Lipscomb spotted a rusting metal barrier in Wynants Kill, where it meets the Hudson in South Troy, he recognized a prime opportunity.

This was one of many obsolete dams that block the movement of fish along creeks and streams that feed the Hudson. The streams are pathways between feeding, nursery, and spawning grounds.

New York State has made efforts to identify such barriers, and researchers are investigating ways to

restore fish populations by removing the barriers and allowing tributaries to flow naturally. Here in Troy, Riverkeeper found a city that, despite many other challenges at hand, was willing to take action to help restore the river.

In May 2016, Riverkeeper, Troy and the state Department of Environmental Conservation succeeded in removing the dam. Within days, underwater cameras spotted hundreds of alewives, a species of river herring, swimming up the Wynants Kill to spawn for the first time in 85 years. American eel, white sucker, yellow perch and other fish have also gained access to the Wynants Kill.

River herring are one of the most important species that return to the Hudson from the Atlantic to spawn. Their populations declined significantly up and down the Atlantic Coast since the 1960s,

due to overharvest and the loss of spawning habitat. Federal and state biologists prioritize the restoration of this habitat as one of the best ways to encourage herring stocks to recover from current historic lows.

The dam removal was funded by the Environmental Protection Fund through a Hudson River Estuary Program Grant. It was the first barrier removal expressly to benefit fish migration in the Hudson River Estuary — an extraordinary event, signaling the potential for many more.

“The construction of the Wynants Kill barrier almost 100 years ago cut off a tributary that was owned by the herring and other species. Now it’s theirs again,” Lipscomb said. “That’s how the Hudson River will recover. By healing one cut at a time. We can be proud of this. And we need to immediately look for another opportunity.”



Wynants Kill, before and after the removal of the dam. Frances Dunwell of DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program said the dam “was like a clogged artery for the river, and the clog is gone.”



## CRUDE OIL

**W**HEN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY made a request to designate 2,400 acres on the Hudson River as new anchorage grounds for commercial vessels, Riverkeeper fought back.

The proposal would drastically expand the number of federally designated anchorages — 43 new berths in 10 areas from Yonkers to Kingston.

Public concerns range from the nuisance of noise and lights from the barges to the damage from anchors and anchor chains on sturgeon habitat. Above all, this proposal and others threaten to re-industrialize the Hudson River at a time when it has a chance, finally, to begin healing.

In its request to the Coast Guard, the shipping industry named one commercial incentive in particular. The Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ Tug and Barge Committee, in its January 2016 letter, noted Albany's role as an "export port ... of Bakken Crude Oil and Ethanol." "Trade will increase on the Hudson River significantly over the next few years with the lifting of the ban on American Crude exports for foreign trade and federally designated anchorages are key to supporting trade."

To which we say: No. Riverkeeper will not let the Hudson become a floating pipeline for oil transport.

The risk of a crude oil spill to the Hudson — already a serious threat due to the surge in barge and train shipments of Bakken crude oil since 2012 — will rise even further if new anchorages are granted to facilitate the movement of more oil. And crude oil is poison for life in the river.

What's more, several of the proposed anchorages are in areas relied upon by endangered sturgeon for their survival.

The good news: Mayors, boaters, community groups and members of the general public spoke out like never before to protect the Hudson from additional harm. More than 10,000 comments were filed with the Coast Guard.

Riverkeeper and our allies developed a bipartisan coalition to win more time for public input and demand a full environmental impact statement. Local governments are uniting in a new Hudson River Waterfront Alliance. If this proposal goes forward, a newly energized and engaged public, in partnership with Riverkeeper, will be ready to defeat it.

*"In my experience — and, I believe, in the history of the Hudson Valley — there has never been an outpouring of love and caring for the river such as we have seen in this case."*

—JOHN LIPSCOMB, PATROL BOAT CAPTAIN

### 'NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT'

"Should towns up and down the Hudson River be rest stops on a multilane highway for barges carrying crude oil?"

Absolutely, say the shipping and tug-boat interests. But if you care about the health and vitality of the beleaguered Hudson — more than the convenience and efficiency of the industries behind America's energy boom — the answer should be no, absolutely not."

*No Parking on the Hudson, New York Times editorial, September 19, 2016*



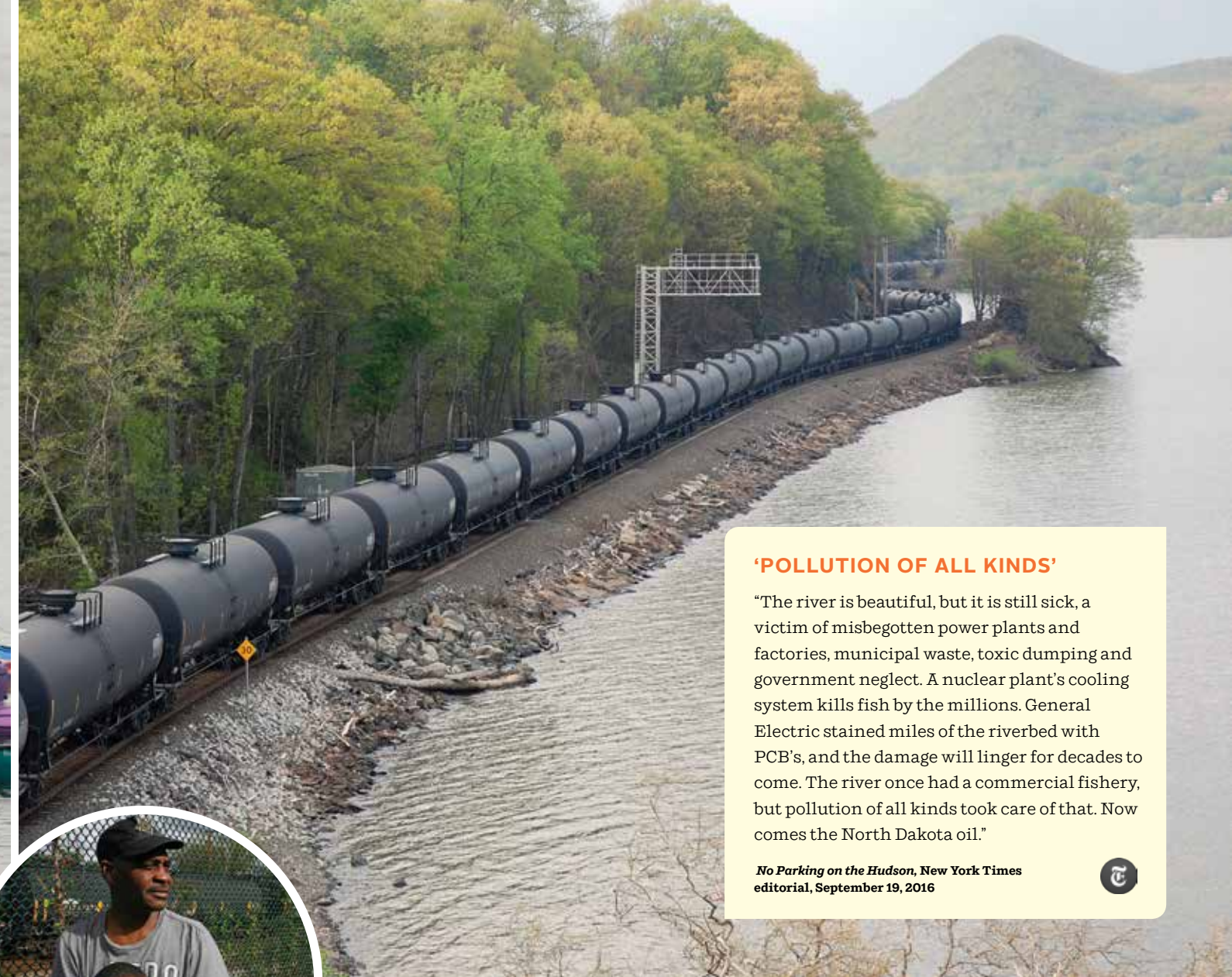
A tug and barge at the designated anchorage off Hyde Park. The maritime industry is seeking Coast Guard approval for a large number of new anchorage grounds for commercial vessels — 10 areas from Yonkers to Kingston, comprising more than 2,400 acres.

# No parking here

Industry proposes a drastic increase in anchorage grounds — and the public speaks up like never before.



Kayaktivists gather around the Riverkeeper patrol boat in May as part of the global action Break Free 2016, protesting the dangerous transport of crude oil by pipeline, rail and river vessel.



### 'POLLUTION OF ALL KINDS'

"The river is beautiful, but it is still sick, a victim of misbegotten power plants and factories, municipal waste, toxic dumping and government neglect. A nuclear plant's cooling system kills fish by the millions. General Electric stained miles of the riverbed with PCB's, and the damage will linger for decades to come. The river once had a commercial fishery, but pollution of all kinds took care of that. Now comes the North Dakota oil."

*No Parking on the Hudson, New York Times editorial, September 19, 2016*



## CRUDE OIL

# Reclaiming the river

**Riverkeeper is mobilizing the grassroots to push back against multiple efforts to use the Hudson Valley as a highway for oil and gas.**

**T**HE HUDSON RIVER and the waters feeding it are under threat from ever more efforts to ship toxic crude oil and fracked gas through the valley. New pipelines are proposed for oil and gas, and an oil terminal project in Albany would allow the transfer of sinking "tar sands" oil for shipment down the river.

This comes on top of barges and trains that began shipping Midwest crude through the Mohawk, Hudson and Champlain valleys in 2012, subjecting these waterways to an unacceptable risk of spill, with no meaningful spill response

capability and, in the case of oil trains, virtually no oversight. The potential consequences of a spill are no mystery. In Lac Megantic, Quebec, the horrific train explosion that killed 47 people also poisoned a nearby river, where fish were left with lesions, fin erosion and other deformities.

There is no doubt, however, that citizen voices are making a difference – pushing back in defense of the river. And they are winning. Here are two examples.

### Proposed Pilgrim oil pipelines

Riverkeeper and our grassroots partners are fighting aggressively against dual, 170-mile pipelines proposed to run between Linden, N.J., and Albany, largely along the Thruway. The pipes would cross the Hudson, countless streams and every major tributary on the west side.



Be Be White stands with his son Brayton along the fence that separates the railroad tracks from Ezra Prentice Homes in Albany. "I can't rest at night, knowing those tankers are right there, worrying we could be blown up," White says. From Earthjustice photo essay "Watching the Rails: One Community's Quest for Safety."

Nearly 70 municipalities and counties have formally opposed the project, including four cities and three villages along the route with veto authority. Thanks to a 100-year-old New York State law, villages and cities in the path have the right to say no.

Informed and activated by Riverkeeper, community members have come out in force at town halls and "kayaktivist" rallies to demand that this fossil fuel infrastructure be rejected. New York State signaled its own concerns, demanding a detailed, thorough and publicly engaging environmental review. More at [riverkeeper.org/pilgrim](http://riverkeeper.org/pilgrim).

### Global oil terminal

State permits in 2012 allowed the Global company to turn Albany into a major hub for crude oil rail shipments from

North Dakota to East Coast refineries. In a tentative victory for Riverkeeper and our allies, New York State has pledged to completely re-examine those permits, and we will hold the state to it. Our coalition is pursuing legal challenges over the terminal's right to operate, arguing that the company failed to obtain proper air emissions permits when it quadrupled operations over the last five years. EPA issued a Notice of Violation, similarly alleging that Global vastly understated the amount of pollution the facility emitted to avoid getting the proper permits.

Riverkeeper is also challenging the complete lack of environmental review over Global's proposed expansion to facilitate handling of heavy tar sands crude — a product that would sink if spilled, and potentially devastate river life. We won't have it. More at [riverkeeper.org/crude](http://riverkeeper.org/crude).



### ALGAE: WALLKILL RIVER'S NEON GREEN PLEA FOR HELP

When the Wallkill River turned fluorescent green in the summer of 2016 from toxic algae, Riverkeeper and the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance were ready. We had already expanded our five-year-old community monitoring of this major Hudson River tributary, as a first phase of a pollution source tracking effort, and we quickly developed an aggressive sampling program in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Conservation to define the algae's extent, duration and toxicity. More than 30 miles of the river was affected, parts of it for 60 days or more — the only river in the state to endure such a dramatic episode in a hot, dry summer. While we continue coordinating community science to understand what ails the Wallkill, we're making the case with the Alliance that it's time to elevate the cleanup of the Wallkill as a state priority.



PHOTO BY EMILY VAIL / NYS DEC

Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper Water Quality Program Director, investigates a suspicious discharge from outfall pipes upstream of the City of Newburgh's primary reservoir.



Members of the press interview Peter Smith, right, of the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, and a citizen expert in the City of Newburgh's drinking water supply.

### WATER QUALITY

# Fighting to save a city's water

*After raising an alarm about contamination in Newburgh's water supply, Riverkeeper is fighting alongside the community to protect the people, their water and the environment.*

**I**N MAY OF 2016, the City of Newburgh declared an emergency as a toxic chemical associated with firefighting foam used at the nearby Air National Guard Base was detected in the city's primary drinking water reservoir.

More than a year earlier, Riverkeeper had raised concerns about the risks to the city's drinking water posed by pollution from the base. Once crisis hit, Riverkeeper's advocacy focused on three goals — achieving a robust public health response, a comprehensive cleanup of toxic pollution, and a long-term protection plan for the city's drinking water. The latter goal grew out of research identifying the failure to implement and coordinate the broad range of laws and regulations designed to prevent just this sort of crisis.

The state moved quickly to declare the Air National Guard Base a Superfund site, investigate the source of pollution, and arrange for alternate safe drinking water supplies. At Riverkeeper's urg-

ing, the state ultimately committed to offering free blood testing to assess the public's toxic exposure as the first step of a long-term public health response, and to completing a new plan to define, and to mitigate or eliminate major risks to the city's drinking water quality. Riverkeeper is continuing to pressure the Department of Defense to take both short- and long-term actions to eliminate discharges of pollution from the base into local streams.

Riverkeeper's focus on source water protection helped make the case for a new statewide program, with Governor Andrew Cuomo calling for the state to "protect drinking water at its source." We created a scorecard to help communities understand the range of tools that should be used to protect drinking water supplies — the very tools that have been used to worldwide acclaim to protect New York City's drinking water. Newburgh's crisis is a wakeup call to the rest of the state: It's time to use those tools statewide.

ADIRONDACKS

TROY

NEWBURGH

NEW YORK CITY



*“The closure agreement for Indian Point will not only make us safer, it can also drive better, more sustainable energy policy for New York.”*

—PAUL GALLAY, PRESIDENT AND HUDSON RIVERKEEPER



INDIAN POINT

# Powering past Indian Point

This is your victory as much as ours: Indian Point nuclear plant will shut down by 2021 thanks to a historic agreement by Riverkeeper, New York State and Entergy. Riverkeeper will remain vigilant. And we can all move on to a clean energy future.

**SHUTDOWN AGREEMENT**

- Reactors close in 2020 and 2021
- Spent fuel shifts from pools to more secure, dry cask storage
- Safety inspections occur more frequently
- Riverkeeper retains right to compel full compliance with agreement
- Entergy creates \$15 million environment and community fund

**T**HIS YEAR BRINGS A TRULY HISTORIC VICTORY for New York and for the river: In January, Riverkeeper joined New York State and the Entergy Corporation in an agreement to close the Indian Point nuclear power plant in 2021. Entergy has already shortened its relicensing request to reflect this new closure date.

The safety problems plaguing Indian Point made its expedited closure essential. There has been a seemingly endless string of crises, including unprecedented problems with failed bolts in the core of Unit 2 reactor and a spate of shutdowns, radioactive leaks, fires, and explosions.

Now, New York has the opportunity to replace the plant with clean and green sources of energy. A new study, commissioned by Riverkeeper and the Natural Resources Defense Council, puts to rest any lingering doubts over replacement power.

The report, by Synapse Energy Economics — a renowned energy consulting firm — shows that electricity from Indian Point can be replaced largely with increased energy efficiency and renewable energy sources

coupled with transmission and other replacement projects already well underway. If we ramp up energy efficiency and renewables such as solar, hydro or wind, there would be no need for additional fossil fuels to replace Indian Point.

Moreover, if New York uses all the clean energy resources available to it, it can close Indian Point in 2021 and retire another 1,200 MW of fossil fuel-based electricity, as well. By 2030, renewable energy sources will become the prominent supplier of power for New Yorkers. Additionally, energy efficiency advances alone could produce the equivalent of double Indian Point’s output!

New Yorkers won’t miss Indian Point once it closes in 2021. They certainly won’t miss the danger that this aging nuclear power plant poses to them, nor the damage it does to the Hudson River — killing more than a billion fish eggs and larvae each year through its cooling systems. Now we’re happy to report that New Yorkers won’t miss the energy that Indian Point produces.

## RIVERKEEPER CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST GAS PIPELINE

After continued pressure from Riverkeeper and community groups, two natural gas pipelines criss-crossing our regional waterways, the Constitution and the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) were scrapped. Kinder Morgan pulled the the plug on the controversial NED, and just days later New York State denied a water quality certification for Constitution. We continue to fight the Algonquin Incremental Market high-pressure pipeline, which comes dangerously close to Indian Point. Riverkeeper has challenged the project in federal court, arguing that regulators undermined the environmental review by failing to consider related projects in the pipeline system. Our nuclear safety and pipeline safety experts also detailed how an explosion could engulf the entire Indian Point nuclear power plant site.



Newtown Creek, the border of Brooklyn and Queens.

## NYC

*New York's urban streams are full of potential as natural habitat and playground for paddlers. With a new shallow-draft boat, Riverkeeper is exploring the possibilities and fighting for a new standard for clean water.*

# Sea of possibility

**N**EWTON CREEK, Flushing Bay, Gowanus Canal, Westchester Creek, the Bronx River — these urban waterways could be a string of parks and wildlife preserves in the heart of New York City.

They could be — as they once were, and in a vastly compromised way, still are — the little engines of life for the Atlantic; vibrant spawning grounds for fish that sustain the whales in New York Harbor. They could be sheltered waters for safe recreation in the shadow of the city skyline.

First, of course, we'll have to stop dumping billions of gallons of raw sewage and polluted street runoff, and clean up toxic wastes. We'll have to change the mindset that these waterways aren't worth the trouble, because "no one uses them."

It's possible, if we allow ourselves to have faith. Riverkeeper has developed strong partnerships with local citizens who share these goals and are already fighting alongside us. Even the worst-polluted waters are rowed and paddled by hardy crews — the dragon boat teams in Flushing Bay, the North

Brooklyn Boat Club on Newtown Creek, the Rocking the Boat students on the Bronx River.

Our new shallow-draft boat, the *Sun Hill*, is giving us access to East River tributaries in the Bronx and Queens, enabling new patrols and science research. Our expanded water quality monitoring tests for pathogens and levels of dissolved oxygen — another important measure of the waterway's health, because low oxygen means death for aquatic life.

With our allies in the SWIM Coalition we are pushing the state and city for an aggressive approach to reduce the 27 billion gallons of annual pollution from combined sewer overflows. We are fighting for strong city enforcement authority against stormwater pollution, and getting industries to clean up their act. In Jamaica Bay, we are pushing back against shortsighted plans to build a sea wall that will choke off the bay's life. On the Gowanus Canal, the massive Superfund cleanup has begun.

A new federal administration vows to roll back vital regulations. Riverkeeper will push ahead, like never before.

*Our hope is that a city of 8 million people can learn to live next to a dynamic estuary and allow it to thrive.*



"When I was growing up, I was pretty much a city kid. To me the Hudson River was that blue thing you see on the subway map." Angel Montero, now a student at CUNY Queens College, is engaged in water quality research in partnership with Riverkeeper.

Spotted during a Riverkeeper patrol: An egret wades in the polluted Bronx River.

# Sustaining the city

New York City's drinking water supply relies on the careful protection of lands, forests and streams. Twenty years after brokering a landmark agreement, Riverkeeper remains vigilant to protect and conserve the system serving 9 million people.



## FIGHTING TO RAMP UP HISTORIC PROTECTIONS

The "Filtration Avoidance Determination" will soon be renewed, outlining the means of water quality protection necessary to allow NYC to continue providing 9 million consumers with unfiltered drinking water over the coming decade. Riverkeeper has worked with partners and regulators to press the city to upgrade and fund programs that have proven crucial in the past. Riverkeeper set forth a proposal to focus the city's Watershed Land Acquisition Program on environmentally sensitive streamside, wetland and forested areas, increase farm stewardship opportunities and make the watershed climate-resilient.

Ashokan Reservoir in the Catskills, part of a watershed system that encompasses 2,000 square miles.

**R**IVERKEEPER USES SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE, litigation and empowerment of stakeholders to influence decisions on how to sustain the vast reservoir system providing safe, unfiltered drinking water to New York City and the Hudson Valley.

- **Watershed rules and regulations** Riverkeeper is nearing an agreement with the city, upstate municipalities and state regulators over rules that guide protection of the upstate lands, ensuring sustainable land use and effective wastewater treatment, and promoting local economic activity.
- **Watershed polluter enforcement** We stepped up enforcement of Clean Water Act violations and issued a "notice of intent to sue" to a dairy product manufacturer, FrieslandCampina Domo, which had violated permit limits for thermal discharges into a trout stream over 50 times in the past few years. We entered into an agreement to facilitate swift, amicable resolution.
- **Shandaken Tunnel Clean Water Act violations** Riverkeeper has fought to ensure that the city's tunnel from the Schoharie Reservoir to the Esopus Creek is operated legally and that muddy discharges are minimized. A key permit was declared illegal. The state has stalled new permitting for eight years, and we have taken up the mantle again, demanding the state modify the permit to account for new weather patterns and limit heat and turbidity discharges.
- **Delaware Aqueduct repair** Riverkeeper was pleased to see the success of a decade of advocacy when the city published a draft plan for repairs to the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel, which carries 50 percent of the city's water supply in an aqueduct buried under the Hudson River. The tunnel has been leaking 27 million gallons per day, causing homes to flood in Wawarsing.
- **Independent expert review** Riverkeeper is employing scientific expertise to help shape two independent, third-party reviews of the city's watershed protection programs.

IN  
ONE  
DAY

2,200  
volunteers

109  
projects

48  
tons of debris  
removed

429  
tires removed

836  
trees  
& shrubs  
planted or  
maintained



Peekskill



GAIL PORTER

Saugerties



GAIL PORTER

Saugerties



MATTHEW FLEISCHMANN

Englewood Cliffs

COMMUNITY

# Biggest cleanup ever!

**Thousands of volunteers came to the shorelines for Riverkeeper Sweep 2016, and the results were astounding. See what we can do for the river in just a day.**

**O**UR FIFTH ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE — Riverkeeper Sweep, on May 7, 2016 — was our biggest yet, with new partnerships and more projects in more communities than ever. Teams of volunteers gathered along hundreds of miles of shoreline from Brooklyn to Troy, hauling trash and recyclables, planting native grasses, trees and shrubs, and clearing invasive species.

Over five years, this grassroots, volunteer effort has removed an astounding 164 tons of trash and 9 tons

of recyclables from the shorelines. But that's only part of it. Riverkeeper Sweep inspires community participation and leadership year-round through our Trash Free Hudson initiative. In 2016 we piloted a data collection method that yielded a snapshot of marine debris in the Hudson River. The data will reinforce our role in the fight for Albany County's Styrofoam ban, New York City's plastic bag fee and other initiatives aiming to prevent waste from even entering the waterways. Those efforts, too, are gaining momentum.

PHOTO BY GWENDOLYN CHAMBERS



CLIFF WEATHERS

Beacon

## WE NEED YOU.

Join us to volunteer, advocate, and steward our river. Email [volunteer@riverkeeper.org](mailto:volunteer@riverkeeper.org) or visit [www.riverkeeper.org/volunteer](http://www.riverkeeper.org/volunteer).

# A big year for clean water

*We helped negotiate the closure of Indian Point nuclear plant, and secured New York's biggest financial commitment to clean water in a half-century. As Riverkeeper enters its 51st year, the achievements continue to stack up.*

## Defending the Hudson

**INDIAN POINT** Reached agreement for the shutdown of Entergy's aging and destructive nuclear power plant by 2021. (p. 20)

**HASTINGS CLEANUP** Finalized new consent decree providing legal steps for cleanup of PCBs at the former Anaconda Wire & Cable Company, one of the worst polluted sites on the Hudson.

**CRUDE OIL** Challenged multiple efforts to use the Hudson Valley as a super-highway for toxic crude oil via pipeline, barge and rail. (p. 14, p. 16)

**OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS** Collaborated with Coast Guard to improve oil spill response planning, including 80 local maps with booming strategies to protect all critical habitats from Troy to NY Harbor.

**HERRING HABITAT** Identified obsolete dam at Wynants Kill in Troy; facilitated its removal to restore a quarter-mile of spawning habitat for river herring. (p. 12)

## Improving water quality

**INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS** Led a broad-based coalition to achieve a historic investment: New York's \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act, a huge boost to our efforts to stop sewage overflows and protect drinking water at its source. (p. 11)

**DRINKING WATER** Won legislation assuring drinking water safety testing for 2.5 million New Yorkers who currently lack such testing and expanding the list of toxic chemicals being tested for statewide.

**CONTAMINANT STUDY** Completed, with Cornell University, second year of landmark study of pharmaceuticals, industrial contaminants and other "micropollutants" in the Hudson.

**COMMUNITY SCIENCE** Expanded community monitoring of Hudson River tributaries to include the Saw Kill and Roeliff Jansen Kill.

**SEWAGE ALERTS** More complete public reporting of sewage overflows result from final regulations on the Sewage Pollution Right to Know law, signed in 2012.

**NEW LAB** Opened a lab and satellite office at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston.

## Protecting watersheds

**NEWBURGH** Pressed successfully for state blood testing of citizens exposed to water supply contaminated with PFOS. (p. 18)

**GAS PIPELINE** Succeeded in blocking Constitution gas pipeline, which would carve a swath through four NY counties and cross waterways 251 times.

**KEY REGULATIONS** Helped convince the state to abandon its plan to allow automatic approvals of environmental reviews after 18 months.

**FLOOD BUYOUTS** Signed NYC-funded Flood Buyout Agreement, enabling DEP purchase of ecologically sensitive land within village hamlets.

**AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF** Pushed stricter state permits on winter application of manure fertilizer.

**SOLID WASTE** Pressed for stricter tracking requirements to prevent illegal dumping, and commented on oil and gas solid waste regulations.

**WETLANDS** Helped reduce size and impact of proposed Somers Crossing development project, protecting wetland buffers in NYC drinking watershed.

## Restoring NYC Waterways

**WASTE BAN** Helped draft NYC ban on use and disposal of waste from oil and gas energy sector on roads, treatment plants and landfills.

**POLLUTION ENFORCEMENT** Finalized \$117,000 settlement in case against cement company over concrete wastewater being pumped into Newtown Creek.

**ABANDONED BARGES** Pushed successfully for Army Corps removal of two derelict barges polluting Flushing Bay with Styrofoam and other contaminants. (p. 4)

**FOAM CLEANUP** Reported hundreds of remaining foam blocks in Flushing Bay; LaGuardia Airport helped remove some 30 truckloads of debris.

**JAMAICA BAY** Filed comments against massive storm-surge barrier at Rockaway Inlet, citing science on how such barriers harm ecosystem.

**EAST RIVER PATROL** Launched new shallow draft boat, the *Sun Hill*, and began patrolling East River tributaries.

*"The Riverkeeper boat coming out of the Rondout. Still fighting the good fight."*

—CAROLYN MARKS BLACKWOOD, BOARD MEMBER





**FAR LEFT** Just the right note. Sting performs an acoustic set at the Fishermen's Ball.

**LEFT** Andy Cohen, the event's Master of Ceremonies, keeps the crowd laughing.

**ABOVE** A candid moment caught on camera. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. looks on as Ralph Lauren fixes Robert DeNiro's tie.

COMMUNITY

# The stars celebrate 50 years of Riverkeeper

*Leonardo DiCaprio, Ralph Lauren, Robert DeNiro and Howard Rubin are honored at our annual Fishermen's Ball.*



**ABOVE** Riverkeeper President Paul Gallay with one of our more distinctive revelers.

**OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION,** The Fishermen's Ball, was all the more special as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in 2016. Set against the backdrop of the Hudson River on a cool May evening, the event honored actor Leonardo DiCaprio and fashion icon Ralph Lauren as 'Big Fish' for their commitment to environmental protection. Both DiCaprio and Lauren awarded Riverkeeper with \$100,000 grants. Special honors were given to former Riverkeeper board chairman Howard Rubin as "Big Fish Emeritus" and to actor Robert DeNiro as "Hudson Hero." The evening event also showcased a short documentary by the Tribeca Film Fellows titled

"Keeping On," which featured Riverkeeper Boat Captain John Lipscomb. The evening finished with a live performance by the legendary Sting, who performed a short set of his hits. As he began "All This Time," Sting recalled growing up next to the River Tyne in England and said, "If you allow nature to heal itself, it will do just that. So I applaud Riverkeeper for allowing the Hudson to heal itself." Hosted by Bravo television host Andy Cohen, the Fishermen's Ball turned out a record number of Riverkeeper supporters. Those in attendance included Chuck Close, James Cromwell, Eileen Fisher, Rachael Harris, Deborah Harry, Jeff Koons, John McEnroe, Rosie Perez, Mark Ruffalo and Fisher Stevens.



**ABOVE LEFT** Leonardo DiCaprio makes a stirring plea for the environment.

**ABOVE** Jewelry designer Joan Hornig and famed photorealist painter Chuck Close.

**LEFT** Actor Ramon Rodriguez and Brooklyn's own Rosie Perez.

**FAR LEFT** Blondie frontwoman and longtime friend of Riverkeeper, Deborah Harry.





### A HISTORIC RUN: ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.

After 33 years of transformational leadership on the Riverkeeper staff and board, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has ended his historic run with our group. The board and staff of Riverkeeper thank him deeply for his unique contribution. In the words of Riverkeeper Board Chairman Joseph L. Boren:

“Riverkeeper has taken on many of the nation’s biggest industrial polluters and won, because when there’s a battle over water quality on the Hudson, you led and inspired Riverkeeper to stay in it, for as long as it takes, to secure clean water and safe places to swim, fish and boat.”

“You’ve made it your life’s work to fight for the Hudson and its communities and to protect our precious drinking water supplies. While none of us can come close to matching your 33 years of service at Riverkeeper, we all have benefited immeasurably from your skillful, courageous advocacy and transformative leadership.”



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BUCK

## COMMUNITY

# With gratitude & appreciation

Riverkeeper gratefully acknowledges generous contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. The listing below reflects contributions of \$250 and greater received between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016

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*When we see cormorants, or we see egret, or we see heron, it's a hopeful sign. It's a message from the natural world, saying: "We're waiting. You do the right thing, and we'll come back."*

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Francis Greenburger  
Raj Grover  
Neale and Katie Gulley  
Hanlon Proudfoot  
Charitable Fund  
Beth Hanson  
Deborah Harry  
Mangesh Hattikudur  
Allison S. Hildestad  
Randi Marie Hoffmann  
Arthur Holst  
Holy Cross Monastery  
Susan Horwitz  
Gail Hovey  
HSBC Philanthropic Programs  
Hudson Hospitality Group  
Andre and Kelly Hunter  
Innovative Artists  
Dan M. Jacob  
Bobbo Jetmundsen  
Paula Jones  
Andrew Juhl  
Lawrence Kaagan and  
Laurie Storm  
Lila J. Kalinich  
Jenny Kane  
David S. Katz  
Elizabeth Kelley  
Suzanne Knaster  
John Koblinsky  
Susan Koff  
Jeffrey Kopczynski

David Kutch  
John W. Ladd  
Gabrielle Lamb  
Alvan G. and Carol J. Lampke  
Family Foundation  
Douglas Land and Lynn Peebles  
Deborah E. Lans  
Tom Le  
Lyn Leone  
Richard Lerner  
Matthew Levine and  
Jordana Schwartz Fund  
Jennifer and Mark Leyton  
Rennie Lieber  
Susan and Philip Likes  
Steve Lin  
Edward J. Liona  
Richard and Elizabeth  
Livingston  
Joshua London  
Gregory Long  
Rita Louie  
Phoebe S. Love  
Genevieve Lowe  
Arthur Lowenstein  
and Ann Patton  
Linda J. Luca  
Patrick Mackrell  
Robert Madden  
Robert and Sylvia Mangold  
David N. Mann  
Jamie and Marty Markowitz  
Michael J. Mars  
Rebecca Martin  
David and Jeanne Martowski  
Deborah Masters  
The Masters School, Inc.  
Mayfield-Bailey  
Charitable Fund  
Kevin McEvoy and  
Barbara Epstein  
Christopher McLallen  
Judith and Hunter McQuiston  
Neal and Graciela Meltzer  
Merck & Co., Inc.  
Joseph Messing  
Laura K. Metallo  
Linda Mevorach and  
John Rockwell  
Roger and Barbara Michaels  
Russell and Mindy Miller  
Lindsay and Ken Morgan  
Christopher Moskos  
Hans Mueller  
NabbTix LLC  
Constance M. Hoguet Neel  
Mary O'Donnell  
Abraham and Cynthia Ofer  
Catherine O'Leary Smith  
and Toby Smith  
The Olive Tree Fund  
Todd and Liz Ommen  
Dorothy Pack  
Mr. Joseph Paparone  
Par Plumbing Co. Inc.  
Douglas and Alicia Parker  
Christopher and  
Nancy Parkinson  
Susan Pattullo  
Timothy Perini and  
Patricia Goldman  
David Perrin and Anne Kenan  
Perry Capital, LLC  
Barbara A. Pierce  
Melissa Pike  
Penelope Pi-Sunyer  
Jeanne and Martin Puryear  
Qajaq USA Inc.

Kyle Rabin  
Christopher Radko  
Bonnie Raitt  
Charlene J. Ray  
James and Martha Ray  
Denise A. Rempe  
Joel and Jeanne Resnick  
Jon Ringbom and  
Margaret Howard  
Faith Ritchie  
Kathleen and James F. Rittinger  
Hope Rogers  
Susan Fox Rogers  
Nathan Romano  
Leslie L. Rondin  
Albert and Julia Rosenblatt  
Suzie Ross  
Andrew Rossmann and  
Audrey Levine  
William Irwin and  
Martha Roth  
Joshua C. Rubin  
Jeff L. Salinger and Tracy Gary  
Isaac Shamah  
Sally Sanderlin  
Vincent De Santis  
Olga Saunders  
Himanshu and Kerstin Saxena  
Marthe Schulwolf  
Jonathan Schwartz  
Lori Seperac  
Wendy and Stephen Shalen  
Brian Shanly  
Michele Shepard  
Irene and Joseph Sollano  
Susan Solomon  
A & A Spears Fund  
Ian O. Spence and  
Aileen Stan-Spence  
Pearl Spiro  
St. Mary's Church of  
Scarborough, Inc.  
St. Thomas Aquinas College  
Robert and Veronika Stein  
Peter D. Stetson  
Dan Stokes  
Deborah Stone  
Gerard Stone  
Erica Stoppenbach  
Bente Strong  
Dana B. Stuart-Bullock  
Jon Swallen  
Paul A. Terry and Mary B. Beidl  
Thendara Mountain Club, Inc.  
Edward Turen  
Ted Uecker  
Lawrence and Suzette Unger  
Garrett Vail  
Mariet and Hugo  
Van Der Heide  
Van Hengel Family Fund  
Mary Van Keuren  
Sandy Vergano and Jill Egan  
Stella and Gerald Walts  
Jennifer R. Watts  
David A. Webber  
Roger Weisberg and  
Karen Freedman  
Edward B. Whitney Fund  
David and Jennifer Wiener  
The Windward School  
The Esther & Morton  
Wohlgemuth Foundation  
Wood Group Design LLC  
Paul Zammit  
Richard Zimmerman

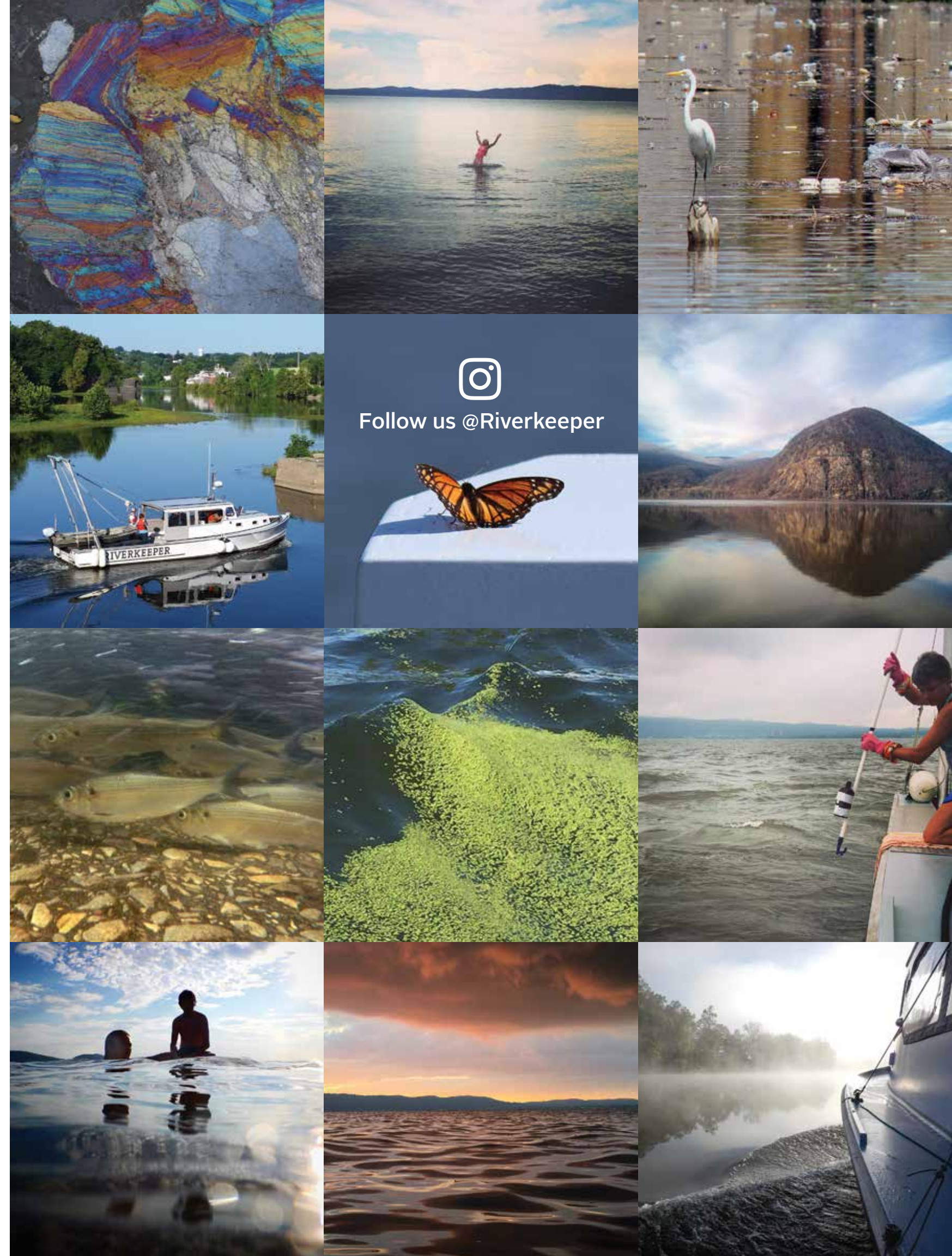
**FINANCIALS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FISCAL YEAR 2016 vs. 2015**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>FY '16</b>	<b>FY '15</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 447,570	\$ 723,010
Current portion of contributions and pledges receivables	1,270,464	1,040,498
Prepaid expenses	82,915	4,776
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,800,949</b>	<b>\$ 1,768,284</b>
Contributions and pledges receivables, net of current portion	1,100,000	1,015,500
Property and equipment (net)	98,163	90,908
Security deposits	10,600	10,600
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,009,712</b>	<b>\$ 2,885,292</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts and grants payable and accrued expenses	\$ 322,553	\$ 420,532
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	39,881	449,462
Temporarily restricted	1,497,278	840,298
Permanently restricted	1,150,000	1,175,000
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,687,159</b>	<b>\$ 2,464,760</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,009,712</b>	<b>\$ 2,885,292</b>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 2016 vs. 2015**

<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Contributions	\$ 2,903,397	\$ 3,814,363
Special events	1,571,162	1,175,978
In-kind services	602,707	1,701,295
Investment	148	151
Other	785	1,021
Cost reimbursements	156,738	90,094
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,234,937</b>	<b>\$ 6,152,902</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	\$ 4,485,967	\$ 4,689,125
Management and general	91,304	146,761
Fundraising	435,267	385,858
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,012,538</b>	<b>\$ 5,221,744</b>
<b>SURPLUS/INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 222,399</b>	<b>\$ 931,158</b>



  
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## Be a voice for the river.

You can help Riverkeeper achieve our vision of a Hudson River teeming with life, flowing with clean, swimmable waters from end to end, and healthy, abundant drinking water for all New Yorkers.

Join Riverkeeper as we begin our second half-century of clean water advocacy.

We need you now more than ever.

[riverkeeper.org](https://riverkeeper.org)

