

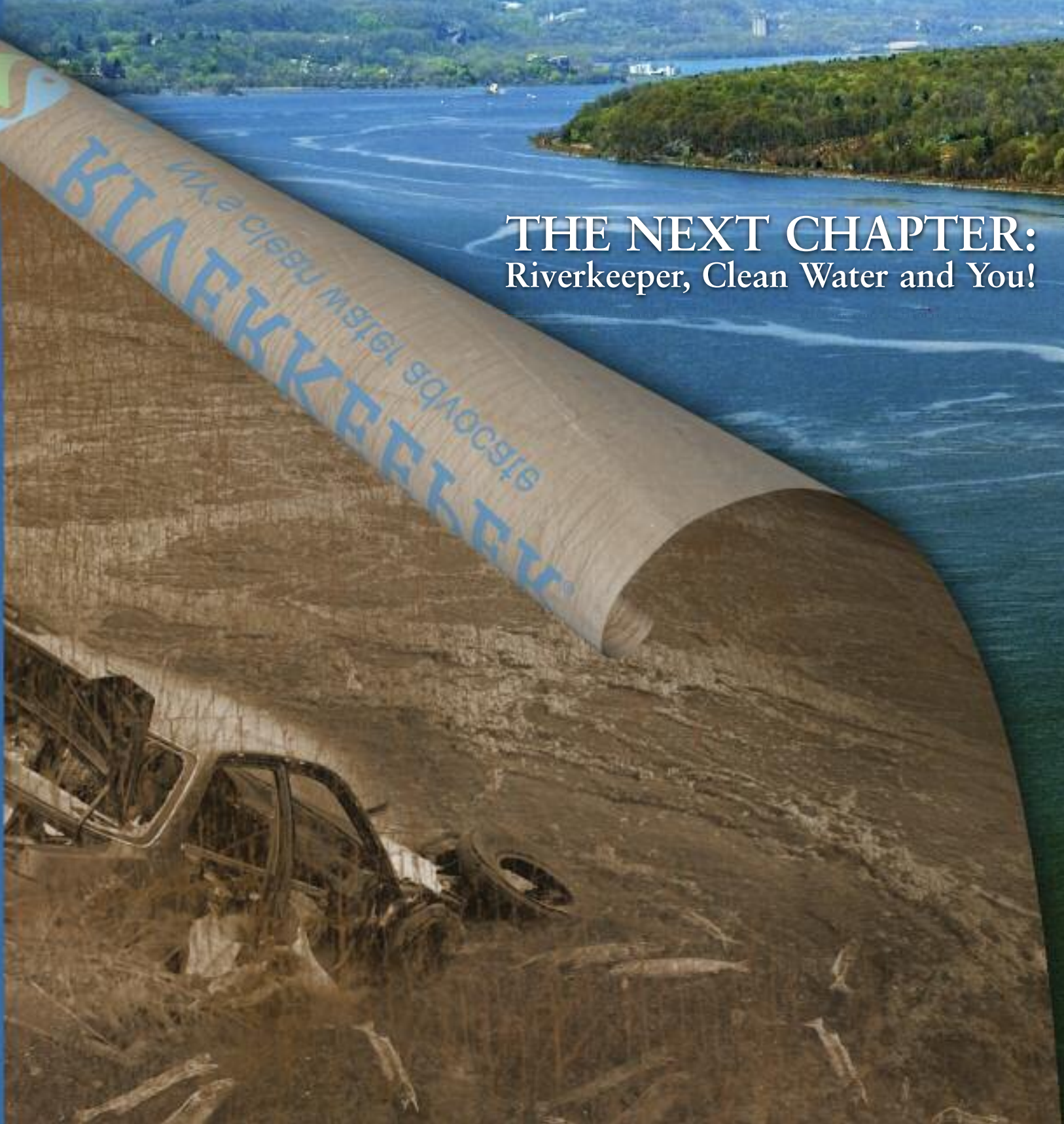


RIVERKEEPER®

NY's clean water advocate

2010

**THE NEXT CHAPTER:
Riverkeeper, Clean Water and You!**



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DEAR FRIENDS,

When I took the helm of Riverkeeper in 2000, we had a budget of less than \$1 million, ten staff members, a patrol boat that was on the river roughly 60 hours a year, and an enforcement program that was limited largely to the mid-Hudson Valley.

Even after rightsizing our operation in the wake of the economic downturn, Riverkeeper has grown into a \$3.2 million organization with a strong professional staff of 22 and a patrol boat that's out on the river six days a week, logging over 1,000 hours and 6,000 river miles a year. Riverkeeper's influence now extends from Hudson Falls to New York Harbor, from Albany to City Hall and dozens of municipalities in between.

When Riverkeeper founder Bob Boyle came up with the idea of putting a man or woman out on the river to patrol its waters and collect evidence to bring polluters to justice, he knew that a full-time presence would not only enable us to spot violators and force compliance with environmental laws, but deter would-be polluters from polluting in the first place. He was right then, and now.

Today, Riverkeeper is more than just one guardian, flanked by support staff. With institutions like Pace Law School and Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory as partners, we are a team of over 35 lawyers and advocates, scientists and grassroots organizers, fundraisers and communications experts, each of whom possesses a passion for the river, all of whom dedicate themselves daily to our mission of ensuring clean water for every citizen of this world-renowned valley. And that doesn't include Riverkeeper's army of volunteers and interns who are vital to our success.

In the last decade, Riverkeeper has racked up – alone and together with our environmental partners – a slew of important victories: a No Discharge Zone designation for the Hudson River; the start of General Electric's long-overdue PCB cleanup; the most formidable challenge to a nuclear plant's continued operation anywhere in the country, resulting in concrete safety improvements; a settlement at Belleayre Mountain in the Catskills in which 1,200 acres were set aside for permanent protection; a \$60 million PCB cleanup settlement at the highly contaminated ARCO Hastings site; a record penalty against New York City for failure to control turbidity in our drinking water supply; the establishment of the Riverkeeper-envisioned Hudson River Estuary Preserve, which will help facilitate land preservation along the river for decades to come; Superfund designation for the long-suffering Gowanus Canal and a major reclamation effort underway on a long-blighted waterway called Newtown Creek; the initiation of a statewide campaign to stop industrial gas drilling, which may be the biggest threat to safe and clean drinking water the state has ever seen; and the list goes on.

But despite the enormous progress we've made, we still have plenty of work to do. We need to make sure GE finishes the job it's spent 35 years and over \$100 million trying to avoid. We need to sound a clarion call to the federal government to reinvest in our failing sewage and storm water infrastructure that threatens a new era of declining water quality. And we need to rescue the Hudson's fish, many of which are in a state of long-term decline, despite past success in building up their populations.

While Riverkeeper has had to adjust to the "new" economy like everyone else, I am proud to say we have done so without losing ground in advancing the cause of clean water. 2009 was a banner year for Riverkeeper and, as always, our members were critical to our success – whether through your generous financial support or stalwart activism.

We are embarking on the next chapter in our fight for clean water. We will need you to continue to stand with us and help us further build our ranks so that we can meet a new decade of challenges head-on. Many thanks for your unfailing support – both past and future. See you on the barricades!

— Alex Matthiessen, Hudson Riverkeeper & President

Riverkeeper's mission is to protect the ecological integrity of the Hudson River and its tributaries, and to safeguard the drinking water supply of New York City and the lower Hudson Valley.

> Take Action

Fact: At Riverkeeper, a nickel a day helps to protect 1,460,000 gallons of clean drinking water for an entire year! **Got water?**

Annual Membership

Sign up for your 12 month membership today by visiting Riverkeeper.org and "Take Action!"

Monthly Installment Membership (Sustainers)

Become a sustaining member by using your credit card to spread your donation into monthly installments in the amount of your choice. Membership couldn't be easier or greener!

Become a Champion

Champions are members who bring new members to the Movement. There are several simple ways to become a Champion:

- Personal Fundraising Pages – Create your own Riverkeeper fundraising page online, set your goal, then blast your page link to your email contacts. Visit "Start a Membership Campaign" in the Spread the Word page of Take Action at Riverkeeper.org.
- Host an event – A birthday, anniversary, block party or community meeting are great occasions to ask your friends, family and colleagues to make their gift a membership to Riverkeeper.
- Membership Drive – Join hundreds of other Champions in our annual spring Membership Drive, culminating with a celebration at the Shad Festival and Hudson River Celebration. Sign up today for the big Drive or start your own at school, at work or with your congregation.

Special Events

Riverkeeper connects with its members and supporters throughout the year with our one-of-a-kind events. Visit Events at Riverkeeper.org or sign up for our monthly eNewsletter to be sure you don't miss anything!

Sponsorship

Corporate partners and sponsor opportunities benefit Riverkeeper and provide unparalleled access to community relations and corporate responsibility.

Volunteering

Riverkeeper depends on volunteers to share their time and talent to carry our clean water mission forward. Interns, Ambassadors, street teams, event aides and phone bankers are just a few of the volunteers needed throughout the year. Contact us at (914) 478-4501 x252 or email info@riverkeeper.org for specific opportunities.

Employee Campaigns

Start a new Earth Share campaign at your workplace or choose Riverkeeper as the recipient of your company's annual employee campaign. You can also designate Riverkeeper to receive United Way campaign contributions.

Tribute/Memorial Gifts

Honor friends, family, or a special occasion with a Tribute Gift. Honor the memory of a loved one with a Memorial Gift.

Major Gifts – Designated Campaign Gift

Large gift donors have confidence that Riverkeeper will use their gift to meet our greatest needs, or can choose to designate their gift to a specific campaign. Gifts of stock can be made by contacting National Financial Services at (800)752-7053, DTC 0226 Account # KPA-163759.

Planned and Estate Giving

Help Riverkeeper to plan for the future by naming us as a beneficiary of your estate, trust or other planned giving options today. Your generosity sustains our mission and builds a lasting legacy in your memory.

Get it Going – We'd be happy to hear from you:

Take Action Online at: Riverkeeper.org,
By phone at: (914) 478-4501 x232
By mail at: 828 S. Broadway, Suite 101, Tarrytown, NY, 10591

For additional information, call (914) 478-4501 x226 or email info@riverkeeper.org.



2

Letter from The Hudson Riverkeeper

4

Patrol Boat Log



6

Hudson River Program

10

The Docket



13

Policy Updates

14

Watershed News



18

Cover Story:
The Next Chapter:
Riverkeeper, Clean Water and You!



22

Event News

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patrol boat log

Riverkeeper Patrol Boat Operator John Lipscomb reports from the river.



Tires cleared from Harlem River ▲

May: On the Bronx side just north of the 207th street bridge, we found hundreds of tires dumped down the bank – covering several hundred feet of shoreline. The area is between the river and “Storage Post,” a self-storage facility. Although we observed no active dumping, we referred the case to NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) which investigated and fined the storage property owner, resulting in the tires being cleaned up. Nice response.



Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) ▲

June: CSOs are one of the primary reasons we still have dangerous spikes of sewage contamination in the Hudson. This one is from Manhattan (there are 500 of them in NYC alone), but we see the same thing in Troy and CSOs exist at many communities in between. Generally, CSOs only discharge untreated sewage when there has been a rain event that overloads the system – but not always. These sewage discharges are “permitted” by NY State, but it’s unacceptable that we still have these problems 37 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act. It doesn’t have to continue this way. The public has to demand better – then polluters will lose permits and funding to repair the system will be found. See related story, “How’s the Water?,” page 6.



More tires took their place ▲

September: We’re still finding discarded tires in the upper half of the Harlem River. Although the dumping from the “Storage Post” seems to have stopped, it appears that now there is another site where waste tires are being dumped to avoid the tire recycling fee. We have an idea where the new dumping is occurring, but never see it taking place. Must be at night, because the greatest concentration of floating tires is always in the morning. We’re working on it. Wish I had a time lapse camera.



Two wooden girls at Catskill ▲

September: In June, Riverkeeper joined the Henry Hudson Quadracentennial Flotilla up the Hudson and conducted our monthly water quality sampling during the nine-day passage. In September, a dozen Dutch sailing vessels arrived in NY as deck cargo on a ship from Holland. The fleet spent a few weeks cruising up the Hudson to Albany. We spent the night with them at Catskill. The Dutch sailors were great fun! The “bot-ter” next to Riverkeeper is a wooden vessel built in 1934. She’s still engaged in fishing in Holland’s shallow inland waters.

Coal tar – Gowanus Canal and Poughkeepsie

June/August: Coal tar was a by-product of a process which extracted gas from coal. The gas was used for heating, cooking and lighting until the 1960s. Today, there are hundreds of polluted sites in NY State, including many in the Hudson Valley, where the Manufactured Gas Plants (MGP) once operated. On the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, we routinely see coal tar bubbling to the surface from contaminated bottom sediments. But it’s not just a NYC problem. The second photo shows coal tar on the water and in the reflection of the new Railway Bridge Park at Poughkeepsie. This one is about 4,000 feet from Poughkeepsie’s drinking water intake pipe. MGP sites are slowly being targeted for remediation by NY State DEC – which is a good thing. See related story, “Superfund Update,” page 8.



Riverkeeper as tow boat ▲

May: On May 16th, southbound from Albany, we came upon a 30 foot motor boat with 6 persons aboard which had drifted ashore due to engine failure. We towed them off the bank and into Catskill Creek. Other "heroic" rescues by Riverkeeper include two kids and a capsized canoe near Stockport, a stranded sailboat near Norrie Pt., two guys off a burning 40 footer near Piermont Pier, a bass boat, etc.



Tagging Atlantic Sturgeon ▲ near Norrie Point

June: We came upon the DEC fisheries team in the process of tagging six males – all about 6 feet long. These fish are so astounding to see up close! Our Atlantic Sturgeon population has been nearly wiped out by over-fishing. There are more males now because it was the females that were taken for their eggs/caviar. Any species whose eggs are a gourmet treat is in real trouble! Unlimited harvest of a fish species just before they spawn is a pretty efficient way to exterminate them. We did it to Atlantic Sturgeon until 1997 and River Herring and American Shad as well. This year however, the shad fishery has been suspended – in the hope that the stock can be restored. Our declining herring population still has no protection at all. See related story, "Fishable River Campaign Update," page 7.



ROAR at West Park ▲

October: Religious Organizations Along the Hudson River (ROAR) is a group of nine congregations with property along the Hudson. We've had ROAR members aboard on the Tappan Zee, at Indian Point and at Kingston – three outings with 22 guests. Their mission statement reads, in part, "we share kinship with all creation" and "human beings and the natural world must go into the future as a single sacred community or both will perish." Riverkeeper and ROAR are working together on shad and herring protection and restoration. They are wonderful partners and we are very grateful for their help.



Successful enforcement on Newtown Creek ▲

August: We observed glass and mixed paper and plastic labeling falling off a deck barge at Sims Municipal Recycling facility on Newtown Creek. We contacted Sims management and within ONE DAY had a response from the facility manager and his staff. They immediately shifted to deep hopper barges. Great response – problem solved. We wish everyone behaved this way.

Sewage discharge at Troy

On August 25th, we found a dry weather sewage discharge at Troy. I contacted NY State DEC via cell phone. An Environmental Conservation Officer met me at Troy and we returned to document the site together. DEC and Riverkeeper contacted City of Troy independently and the outfall was shut off. This event will be part of the evidence used by DEC in a potential enforcement action against Troy. The sample bottle contains sewage and toilet paper fragments – microbial levels were too high to measure – "off the chart." ▼



English Kills, Newtown Creek ▲

The water in the inner reaches of urban waterways like Newtown Creek and Gowanus Canal is polluted beyond comprehension. Yes, the white stuff in the foreground is water. These "out of sight – out of mind" waterways are like giant, 500 foot diameter pipes discharging a toxic mix of petroleum products, heavy metals, chemical compounds and sewage pathogens into the waters of NY Harbor and the Hudson. We have much work ahead to clean these cesspools up. See related story, "Superfund Update," page 8. ■



To view more patrol boat photography visit: www.flickr.com/hudsonriverkeeper

The Hudson River Program team serves as investigator, scientist, lawyer, lobbyist and public relations agent for the Hudson River and its tributaries.

How's the Water?

Four years of water quality testing

by Tracy Brown and John Lipscomb

Thanks to the hard work of many individuals and organizations, water quality in the Hudson River has improved dramatically since passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Public perception of the river has also improved. Once the butt of jokes, the Hudson River Estuary is now enjoyed as a 153-mile long recreational destination.

The approach taken by state and local health agencies to monitoring and reporting on water quality, however, has not kept pace. County departments of health in river communities are not testing the water with the frequency needed to serve the public health. The results of the testing they conduct are often not released to the public, and when it is, the data is often averaged in ways that obscure important local details.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN LIPSCOMB



Dr. Andy Juhl and Carol Knudson from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory processing samples.

In response to the growing need for timely and consistent data on sewage contamination, Riverkeeper started the Water Quality Testing Program in 2006. The program is a partnership with scientists from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and CUNY's Queens College. The primary program goal is to create a river-wide dataset that brings the problem of sewage

contamination to the attention of the public and the officials with the power to address the causes. After all, ignorance is not bliss when the health of the public and river ecology are at risk.

Now starting our fifth year of testing, with more than 1,500 samples taken, we have meaningful findings to share that tell us about water quality throughout the estuary in general, at specific problem locations, and in relation to rain events and infrastructure shortcomings. We are also finding other potential areas for related research, such as sewage microbes persisting in river sediment or being aerosoled (released into the air).

One finding which has surprised many, is that the water quality around NYC is very similar to that in the mid- and upper-Hudson. All regions of the Hudson have clean locations and clean days as well as hot spots and bad days. On average, the water has microbial levels exceeding federal guidelines 22% of the time, or 1½ days out of the average week, throughout the river. But people don't swim at an *average* time or at an *average* location. That is why Riverkeeper is calling for frequent local testing to be conducted, with results made available to the public in a reasonably short time frame so that the public can evaluate the water quality at the locations where they recreate. ■

"I sail and swim with my kids in the Hudson River and it's reassuring to me that Riverkeeper's efforts are tracked on the water testing area of the website. Thanks for making your great work transparent."

— Jonathan Flaks, M.C.C., Riverkeeper Ambassador



PHOTO CREDIT: TRACY BROWN

Other findings of note:

- 2009 was a worse year for water quality than 2008 (29% of samples were "unacceptable" in 2009 compared with 19% in 2008). It was also a wetter year in terms of rainfall.
- Rainfall is one of the consistent triggers of sewage overflows, however, it is not the only cause. Other causes include wastewater treatment plant failures or inadequacies, faulty septic systems, illegal sewage hook-ups, wildlife and agricultural livestock.
- Most importantly, sewage contamination is usually a local problem, caused by discharges that local residents could address once armed with the facts.

The good news is there are locations in every part of the Hudson River Estuary that are largely free of sewage contamination. If we invest in our wastewater infrastructure and persuade our local health agencies to institute frequent testing and reporting regimes, we can increase the days and locations where our citizens can go in the water and enjoy themselves without worry.

To learn more about Riverkeeper's Water Quality Program and the Swimmable River Campaign that it supports, please visit www.riverkeeper.org. This year you will see a new and improved design for reviewing our data using Google Maps. We also now publish monthly water quality reports showing our findings broken down by county. To receive this report, simply sign-up for the Riverkeeper eNewsletter on our site.

Working to Protect the Hudson River's Dwindling Fish Population

by Josh Verleun

In 2008, Riverkeeper released the "Pisces Report," a comprehensive analysis of the status of thirteen signature fish species in the Hudson River. The Pisces Report revealed that ten Hudson River species have declined in abundance since the 1980s including shad, tomcod and white perch. Since the release of the Pisces Report, Riverkeeper's Fishable River Campaign has worked to halt the decline of Hudson River's signature fish species and restore their numbers to sustainable levels. This campaign has advocated for comprehensive fish protection by addressing the many negative impacts on the health of the fish including: habitat loss and degrada-

tion; sewage overflows; power plant fishkills; invasive species; ocean bycatch; and overfishing.

Despite emergency fishery regulations enacted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in 2008, populations have continued to decline to historically low levels.

This year saw the closure of the historic Hudson River American Shad fishery and increased efforts to protect the species coast-wide through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Riverkeeper's efforts to restore the Hudson and East Coast's dwindling shad populations included: attending public meetings and speaking out on

behalf of shad protection and restoration; petitioning the Governor of New York to fully implement a comprehensive shad recovery plan; submitting written legal comments to both the DEC and the ASMFC; engaging member partner groups to support shad with letter writing campaigns; and leading an effort to have comments read supporting shad protection at the February, 2010 ASMFC conference.

Riverkeeper also weighed in on coast-wide efforts by the ASMFC to protect river herring. With populations along the East Coast and in the Hudson also in decline, river herring is another species in need of comprehensive protection. The

FISH IMAGES COURTESY NY DEC



ASMFC recently finalized an amendment to the coast-wide management plan for the species which requires that all states that cannot demonstrate that their river herring fishery is sustainable must close. New York State is currently evaluating whether a sustainable fishery can be maintained.

In addition to shad and river herring, Riverkeeper also weighed in on other fishery protection efforts including submitting legal comments in support of a proposal by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to list Atlantic Sturgeon as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. ■

Power Plants and Cooling Water Riverkeeper's Historic Work to Save the Hudson's Fish

By Rebecca Troutman

Up and down the shores of the Hudson River, power plants dot the landscape, most of them continuing to use outdated technology known as once-through cooling. These power plants withdraw billions of gallons of Hudson River water each day in order to cool their turbines and produce electricity. While generating profits, they are extracting a large cost on our river's aquatic life. This enormous water use needlessly kills billions of fish, eggs and larvae each year, by impingement (the fish are

usage by 95–98%. This modern technology reuses water, resulting in enormous benefits to the ecosystem, drastically reducing fish mortality. Riverkeeper continues the fight that began in the 1970s to pressure the older plants to retrofit to this superior technology. Unfortunately, the power companies continue to employ vast resources to vigorously resist any requirements to use the new technology, and instead seek to rely on far less effective measures to reduce fish kills.

Currently, Riverkeeper attorneys are in various stages of preparation for adjudications concerning this environmental tragedy for the Indian Point, Bowline and Roseton power plants. The Indian Point plant, which alone withdraws up to 2.5 billion gallons of water per day, is scheduled for adjudication in the fall of 2010. The parties are in the midst of discovery during which thousands of documents are being exchanged and experts are preparing reports as to what constitutes "Best Technology Available," the standard set forth in the federal Clean Water Act. Meanwhile, Riverkeeper continues its advocacy at the state and federal level, working with both the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to see that new implementing regulations adhere to the law and provide the needed protections for the declining fisheries of the Hudson. ■



slammed against screens and injured or killed) and entrainment (fish and other aquatic organisms are pulled through the power plant and exposed to lethal chemical, thermal, and physical stress). Closed-cycle cooling, which has existed for decades, would drastically reduce water



PHOTO BY GILESHPHORD.COM

FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT INDIAN POINT

By Deborah Brancato

Riverkeeper's tireless efforts to prevent the relicensing of Indian Point are quickly approaching a critical juncture. In an upcoming landmark hearing, along with the State of New York and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, we will present evidence demonstrating why Indian Point must not be allowed to operate for an additional 20 years.

Much is at stake as we prepare for this momentous occasion:

- Continued operation of Indian Point would generate at least 1,000 additional tons of highly toxic nuclear waste. With no national permanent disposal solution forthcoming, this waste would sit on the banks of the Hudson River indefinitely, posing ongoing security and environmental risks;
- Relicensing the plant will continue to force the 20 million people living within 50 miles of the plant to bear the unfair risk of a serious incident. With no workable emergency plan, a catastrophic radiological release, not unthinkable given the frequency of component malfunctions and unplanned plant shutdowns, would completely devastate the region. In May 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposed a so-called overhaul of emergency preparedness regulations applicable to nuclear plants that would still fail to squarely address the insurmountable difficulties which would prevent effective evacuation around Indian Point in the event of an emergency;
- Allowing Indian Point to continue operating means that the facility would remain a credible terrorist target, for which inadequate protective measures are in place;
- Ongoing use of an antiquated cooling system will continue to destroy Hudson River fish populations;
- Continued operation will increase the risk of inadvertent radioactive releases into the environment. This would add to the current plumes of contamination at the plant created by leaking spent fuel pools, which are slowly leaching into the Hudson River. Both the owner of Indian Point and the NRC refuse to properly assess the impacts of such contamination to the surrounding ecosystems, even though it will persist for years to come.

Riverkeeper stands at the precipice, ready to face this last big opportunity to shut Indian Point down for good and allay the concerns that otherwise will continue to go unaddressed by the complacent oversight by agencies and multi-billion dollar corporations only concerned with the bottom line. ■

SUPERFUND UPDATE

Newtown Creek

Last September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it was considering designating Newtown Creek a Superfund site, a move that could finally result in the cleanup of the Creek after decades of neglect. Newtown Creek is a tributary of the Hudson and East Rivers, located between Brooklyn and Queens. Over a century of industrial pollution and raw sewage overflows have rendered the Creek one of the most highly polluted waterways in the United States. Riverkeeper filed formal comments supporting the EPA in December, and a final decision is expected in 2010. Under Superfund, the EPA will bring its considerable legal and technical resources to bear to completely address the legacy of contamination that has nearly obliterated the Creek's natural systems and posed a public health risk to nearby residents.

Riverkeeper has been active on Newtown Creek since 2002, when our first boat patrol discovered oil seeps, abandoned cars and floating garbage littering the Creek. We also helped found the Newtown Creek Alliance, a coalition of elected officials, local residents, business owners and other non-profit organizations working to improve the Creek and adjoining neighborhoods. Over the past eight years, Riverkeeper has also established itself as the leading pollution enforcer on the Creek, exemplified by its citizen suits against oil companies, cement manufacturers and other polluters.

Gowanus Canal

After almost 150 years of industrial use and decades of raw sewage discharges from New York City's combined sewer system, the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, NY has become one of the nation's most contaminated bodies of water. The putrid sediments at the bottom of the canal contain PCBs, heavy metals, pesticides, volatile organic compounds, sewage solids and coal tar wastes. In April, 2009 EPA announced that it had nominated the Canal for listing on the Federal Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Since this announcement, Riverkeeper has been a vocal supporter of Superfund and a critic of attempts by the City of New York and developers to derail the proposal.

In March 2010, the EPA made the decision to place the Gowanus Canal on the NPL. The EPA has begun conducting a comprehensive study called the Remedial Investigation to determine the extent of contamination in the canal. The Agency will then move forward with a Feasibility Study and propose several possible cleanup approaches for the Canal. Once a cleanup "remedy" is selected, work will begin to clean the Canal's toxic sediments and halt pollution from property along its banks.

— By Phillip Musegaas and Josh Verleun

GE's PCBs: Dredging Begins but the Battle Continues

By Rebecca Troutman

For decades, Riverkeeper and its allies have fought for the removal of General Electric's toxic PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) from the Hudson River. Finally, on the historic date of May 15, 2009, the long-awaited cleanup of the River began. However, this battle is far from over.

Although Phase 1 of the two-phased plan to dredge the contaminated sediments concluded in late October, and according to both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and GE, about 300,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris were removed (exceeding the target amount), GE is now critical of many aspects of the project. Moreover, GE's recently released "Draft Phase 1 Evaluation Report Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site" states that certain standards set for the project are in "inexorable conflict." Although EPA's review of the data leads to many different conclusions, unfortunately, pursuant to the 2006 settlement agreement between EPA and GE, GE retained the option to refuse to perform Phase 2 – which includes approximately 90% of the sediment removal!

Although Phase 1 of the two-phased plan to dredge the contaminated sediments concluded in late October, and according to both EPA and GE, about 300,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris were removed (exceeding the target amount), GE is now critical of many aspects of the project.

The remediation project is now in an evaluation phase in which GE and EPA are exchanging written reports on the data from Phase 1; a peer review panel will evaluate those reports and issue its own findings; and, comments by other stakeholders will be incorporated into the process. Riverkeeper plans to fully participate in this process, working with an independent

expert to review the data and press for a safe and complete clean-up. According to EPA's schedule, GE will state its intentions regarding Phase 2 in the fall of 2010.

For over 30 years, General Electric dumped toxic PCBs into the Hudson River from two capacitor plants, in Hudson Falls and Fort Edwards. Although in 1970 GE had been warned by Monsanto, the manufacturer of PCBs, to prevent PCBs from entering the environment, GE discharged PCBs until 1977. This environmental travesty, which led to the designation of a 200-mile stretch of the River as a federal "Superfund site," caused the virtual closure of the Hudson's commercial fisheries — historically one of the most productive in the world, as well as the ongoing exposure of animals, other aquatic life, and humans to the toxic chemicals. Monitoring in recent years has shown that PCBs from the contaminated sediment in the Upper Hudson continued to travel downstream, over the Federal Dam at Troy, as far as the Battery in Manhattan at the rate of over 500 lbs per year. During this past year's dredging, it was learned that the Upper River contamination was even more extensive than had been estimated, further underscoring the need for large scale removal.

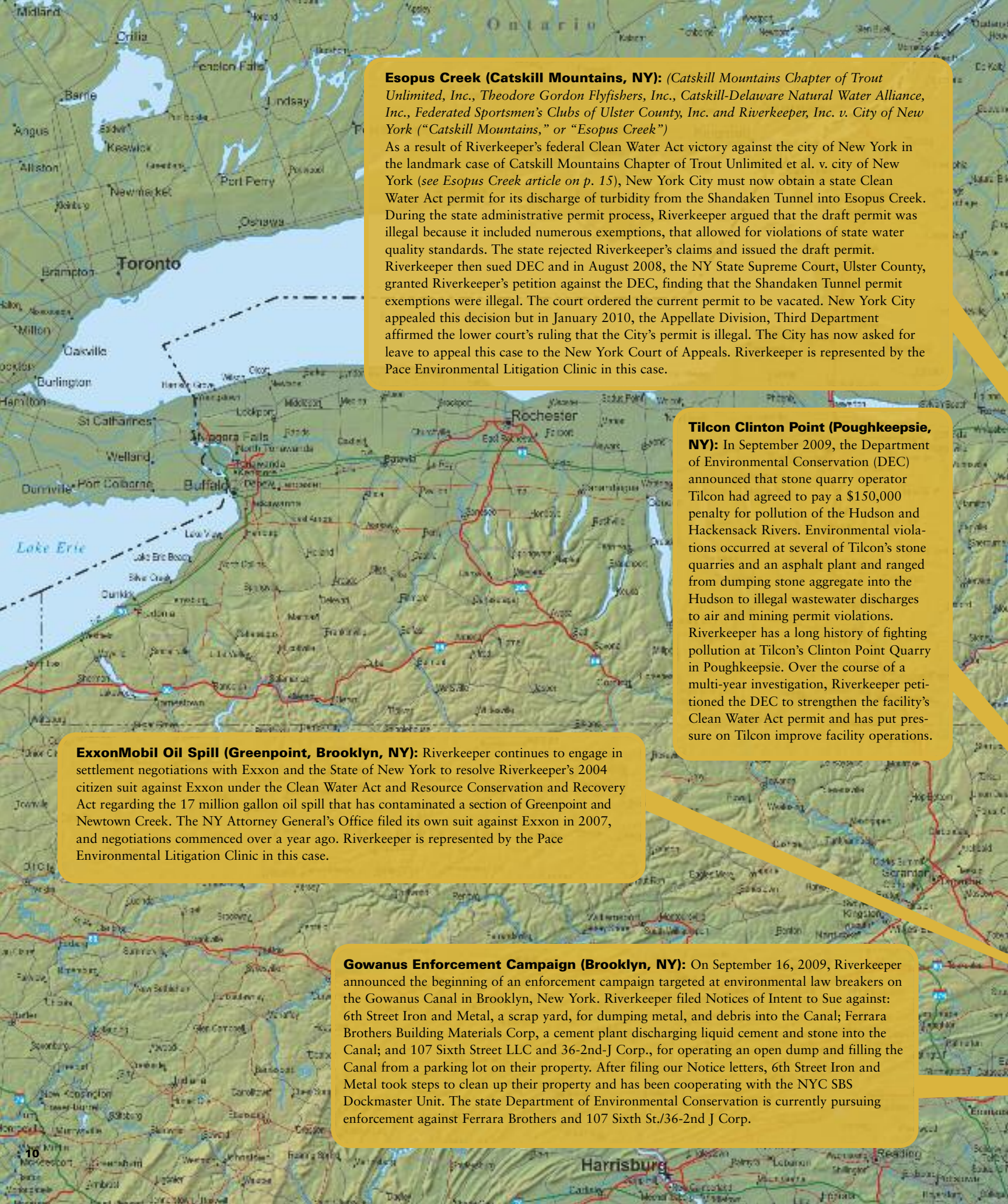
PCBs have been labeled as likely human carcinogens by the EPA, and are suspected of causing liver damage and cancer, and have serious effects on brain chemistry, reproduction and infant development (linked to low birth weight, thyroid disease, and learning, memory, immune system disorders). Exposure is mostly from consumption of PCB-laden fish.

Riverkeeper has long advocated for a comprehensive solution to the toxic legacy of PCBs in the Hudson and will continue to press both the EPA and GE to fully comply with their responsibilities to end this toxic legacy. EPA's fact sheet on Phase 1 can be found at www.epa.gov/hudson/EndofPhase1.pdf. ■



PHOTOS © JOHN NORTON, 2009

"My father and his father before him made a living fishing the Hudson. Maybe one day, GE will get this all cleaned up. Maybe the government will make them make it right."
— Jon Powell, Riverkeeper member



Esopus Creek (Catskill Mountains, NY): (*Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc., Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc., Catskill-Delaware Natural Water Alliance, Inc., Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Ulster County, Inc. and Riverkeeper, Inc. v. City of New York* ("Catskill Mountains," or "Esopus Creek")

As a result of Riverkeeper's federal Clean Water Act victory against the city of New York in the landmark case of Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited et al. v. city of New York (*see Esopus Creek article on p. 15*), New York City must now obtain a state Clean Water Act permit for its discharge of turbidity from the Shandaken Tunnel into Esopus Creek. During the state administrative permit process, Riverkeeper argued that the draft permit was illegal because it included numerous exemptions, that allowed for violations of state water quality standards. The state rejected Riverkeeper's claims and issued the draft permit. Riverkeeper then sued DEC and in August 2008, the NY State Supreme Court, Ulster County, granted Riverkeeper's petition against the DEC, finding that the Shandaken Tunnel permit exemptions were illegal. The court ordered the current permit to be vacated. New York City appealed this decision but in January 2010, the Appellate Division, Third Department affirmed the lower court's ruling that the City's permit is illegal. The City has now asked for leave to appeal this case to the New York Court of Appeals. Riverkeeper is represented by the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic in this case.

Tilcon Clinton Point (Poughkeepsie, NY): In September 2009, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that stone quarry operator Tilcon had agreed to pay a \$150,000 penalty for pollution of the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers. Environmental violations occurred at several of Tilcon's stone quarries and an asphalt plant and ranged from dumping stone aggregate into the Hudson to illegal wastewater discharges to air and mining permit violations. Riverkeeper has a long history of fighting pollution at Tilcon's Clinton Point Quarry in Poughkeepsie. Over the course of a multi-year investigation, Riverkeeper petitioned the DEC to strengthen the facility's Clean Water Act permit and has put pressure on Tilcon improve facility operations.

ExxonMobil Oil Spill (Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY): Riverkeeper continues to engage in settlement negotiations with Exxon and the State of New York to resolve Riverkeeper's 2004 citizen suit against Exxon under the Clean Water Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regarding the 17 million gallon oil spill that has contaminated a section of Greenpoint and Newtown Creek. The NY Attorney General's Office filed its own suit against Exxon in 2007, and negotiations commenced over a year ago. Riverkeeper is represented by the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic in this case.

Gowanus Enforcement Campaign (Brooklyn, NY): On September 16, 2009, Riverkeeper announced the beginning of an enforcement campaign targeted at environmental law breakers on the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, New York. Riverkeeper filed Notices of Intent to Sue against: 6th Street Iron and Metal, a scrap yard, for dumping metal, and debris into the Canal; Ferrara Brothers Building Materials Corp, a cement plant discharging liquid cement and stone into the Canal; and 107 Sixth Street LLC and 36-2nd-J Corp., for operating an open dump and filling the Canal from a parking lot on their property. After filing our Notice letters, 6th Street Iron and Metal took steps to clean up their property and has been cooperating with the NYC SBS Dockmaster Unit. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is currently pursuing enforcement against Ferrara Brothers and 107 Sixth St./36-2nd J Corp.

Highlights of select Riverkeeper legal cases

Lehigh Cement (Catskill, NY):

In December 2009, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) fined Lehigh Northeast Cement Company \$150,000 for discharging landfill leachate into the Hudson River, for failing to take reasonable steps to stop this discharge, and for failing to report this discharge to the department. During the construction of a leachate collection system for the facility's landfill, the volume of leachate increased dramatically, overflowing retention ponds and flowing into the river. This fine follows on a \$50,000 fine levied against Lehigh Cement for leachate discharges from another landfill on their property into a wetland and the Hudson River. In 2008, Riverkeeper filed a Notice of Intent to Sue Lehigh after an extensive investigation revealed landfill leachate with a pH similar to bleach being discharged into a wetland and the Hudson River. Following Riverkeeper's Notice, the DEC stepped in and issued the fine. Riverkeeper continues to regularly monitor this facility to ensure that permanent steps are taken to halt any future discharges.

U.S. EPA Water Transfers Rule Challenge (USA): *(Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc., Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc., Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Ulster County, Inc., Catskill-Delaware Natural Water Alliance, Inc., Riverkeeper, Inc., Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc., Trout Unlimited, Inc., National Wildlife Federation, Environmental America, Environment New Hampshire, Environment Rhode Island and Environment Florida v. United States Environmental Protection Agency)*

In June 2008, EPA issued its Water Transfers rule. This rule runs contrary to numerous judicial holdings (including the Second Circuit's decision in the Catskill Mountains case) and states that interbasin water transfers do not require Clean Water Act permits. In response, Riverkeeper, along with the original co-plaintiffs in the Catskill Mountains case, sued EPA, claiming the new rule is contrary to the Clean Water Act and represents an abuse of discretion by the agency. Riverkeeper is again being represented by the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, who filed suit in United States District Court of the Southern District of New York and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Nine states, including New York, and the Canadian province of Manitoba, also filed suits against EPA. Both cases have been stayed pending the outcome of a separate enforcement action, *Friends of the Everglades v. South Florida Water Management District*, which is pending in the Eleventh Circuit. The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of defendants South Florida Water Management District in the *Friends of the Everglades* case. However, with motions for re-hearing pending in that matter, the stay of the Southern District of New York and Eleventh Circuit cases challenging EPA's water transfers rule remains in effect.



RIVERKEEPER ENFORCEMENT UPDATE: BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWBREAKERS TO JUSTICE

By Josh Verleun

Ever since a blue-collar coalition of commercial and recreational fishermen, marines, factory workers, and carpenters banded together in the 1960s to take the Hudson River back from the abuses of industrial pollution, Riverkeeper has been a watchdog for the Hudson, enforcing the law and bringing environmental lawbreakers to justice.

Riverkeeper carries out our mission to protect the Hudson with regular boat patrols, and the help of concerned citizen “watchdogs” who aren’t afraid to roll up their sleeves to defend our waterways. Whether it’s an anonymous tip to Riverkeeper’s Chief Investigator Josh Verleun through the “report a polluter” hotline or a concerned citizen flagging down our patrol boat operator John Lipscomb from the shore, Riverkeeper relies on our members and concerned New Yorkers to be our eyes on the River.

This year, Riverkeeper launched a new enforcement campaign to track down polluters on Brooklyn’s toxic Gowanus Canal, filing actions against a cement plant for illegal discharges of liquid cement and aggregate, a scrap yard for dumping metal into the canal, a tour bus maintenance lot for operating an illegal dump, and warning an asphalt plant to improve barge loading operations. Riverkeeper also responded to watchdog tips and worked with Environmental Conservation Police Officers to: bust a tire dumper on the Harlem River; halt illegal dry weather discharges from a combined sewer overflow in the City of Troy; warn a large industrial operation on Newtown Creek to improve barge loading operations; file an action against a mid-Hudson racetrack for polluting a trout stream; and investigate dozens of additional tips and citizen watchdog reports.

Riverkeeper’s efforts to bring environmental lawbreakers to justice are greatly enhanced through collaboration with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. During the last year, Riverkeeper was invited to partner with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Law Enforcement Division, working with officers and legal staff to investigate and refer cases. Riverkeeper also works closely with the Westchester County Police Department Environmental Security Unit, the Environmental Crimes Unit of the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, the NYC Small Business Services Dockmaster Unit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and participates in the NYC Clean Harbor Taskforce, which removes derelict boats from New York Harbor. ■

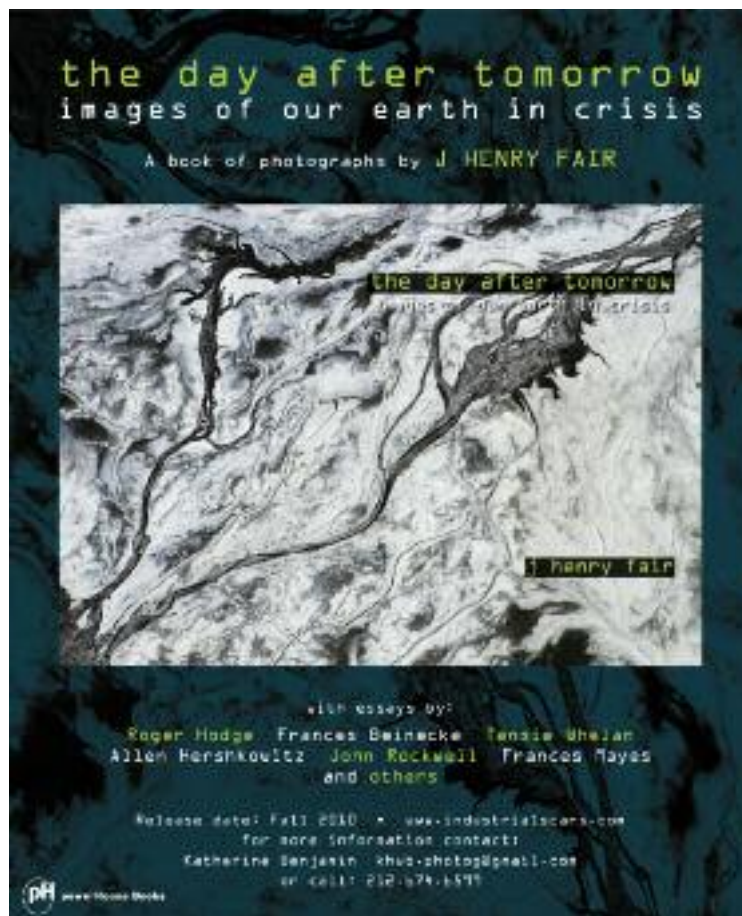
Left to right: John Lipscomb, Josh Verleun and pilot James McVey



PHOTO BY GILESASHFORD.COM

RIVERKEEPER AERIAL PATROLS: TAKING TO THE SKY TO PROTECT NEW YORK’S WATERS

Regular waterborne patrols of the Hudson River and its tributaries are at the core of Riverkeeper’s mission as New York’s clean water advocate. Several times each year, Riverkeeper’s boat presence is enhanced by aerial patrols, enabling our investigative team to gather evidence for important cases and campaigns; seeing behind walls and fences to view new evidence of illegal activity or subtle changes that are often undetectable from the water alone. Aerial patrols have found: coal tar and petroleum sheens in NYC; a barge leaking oil into the Hudson near Newburgh; illegal discharges from a cement plant and quarry; bright yellow ponds of highly alkaline leachate flowing into the River; and evidence used to prosecute numerous other cases. ■



Riverkeeper works to strengthen the laws and regulations that impact our water resources.

PHOTO BY GILES/HOFORD.COM

▶ **H.R. 4003, the Hudson River Valley Special Resource Study Act**

On March 19, 2010 the U.S. House of Representatives passed this legislation, which would fund a federal study to assess whether the Hudson Valley should be made a unit of the National Park Service. Unlike a traditional National Park, this designation would be founded on close cooperation between the National Park Service, state and local government and private landowners, with federal funding going to support and promote this unique region. A National Park designation, done wisely, will preserve the region's remarkable natural beauty by attracting tourism and supporting a strong, sustainable local economy. Riverkeeper has worked closely with state and federal elected officials, state agencies and land preservation groups such as Scenic Hudson, to improve management of remaining undeveloped lands and river habitat along the mid and upper Hudson River.

▶ **S1730/A4272, Citizen Suit Amendment to NY Environmental Conservation Law**

Riverkeeper strongly supports these companion bills introduced by State Senator Schneiderman and Assemblyman Brodsky to add a "citizen suit provision" to the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). Modeled on the Clean Water Act and other federal environmental statutes, this would give citizens the right to bring enforcement actions against polluters in New York for violations of a wide range of state environmental laws, including those that address water pollution and hazardous waste. The federal citizen suit provisions have been extremely useful and beneficial tools for citizens and environmental advocates and would give Riverkeeper a powerful new weapon in its fight to protect the Hudson River and New York City drinking water supply.

▶ **SWIM Coalition**

As a founding member of the Storm Water Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) Coalition, Riverkeeper is actively working with other member groups to ensure that New York City addresses the problem of combined sewage overflows (CSOs) from its antiquated sewer system. SWIM works to make sure that New York City maximizes the use of "Green Infrastructure" such as street trees and green roofs in its effort to adhere to its Sustainable Stormwater Management Plan (SSMP). The

SSMP is a key part of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC, which aims to "green" New York City by 2030. Riverkeeper and SWIM share the goal of returning the Hudson River to a "fishable, swimmable" state in the near future, so that all New Yorkers can enjoy a clean and ecologically healthy river.

▶ **Newtown Creek Community Grants**

Riverkeeper is partnering with state agencies, local community groups and the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center (GMDC), a local economic development organization, on two projects in the Newtown Creek area. First is a Brownfields Opportunity Area (BOA) grant from the State of New York, which Riverkeeper and GMDC are using to prepare an economic redevelopment study of Newtown Creek and the neighborhoods adjacent to it in Brooklyn and Queens. The goal of this study is to map out the vision for the future development of this area that balances the needs of business owners and local residents and "greening" the neighborhoods bordering the Creek.

Second is a joint partnership with the DEC to design and construct a "Green Sewershed Pilot Project" in the Newtown Creek sewershed, funded by the United States Forest Service, that will demonstrate the benefits of using green infrastructure, such as street trees and permeable pavement, to reduce stormwater pollution into Newtown Creek and the Hudson River.

▶ **The New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)**

In the midst of the state's worst budget crisis in decades, Governor Paterson is threatening to slash funding to the EPF, which includes funding for the DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program. The EPF provides critical funding for state agencies and local governments to carry out environmental clean-up and restoration programs. Riverkeeper is partnering with Scenic Hudson, the Nature Conservancy and other environmental groups to prevent Governor Paterson and the Legislature from making short term budgetary decisions that will have long term impacts on our environment. Riverkeeper strongly believes that a healthy, clean environment is a prerequisite to long-term economic prosperity, and is currently urging lawmakers to maintain the Estuary Program's \$6 million budget and the EPF's \$222 million. ■

The Watershed Program uses public education, advocacy and litigation in order to protect the unfiltered drinking water supply for 9 million New Yorkers.

PHOTO CREDIT: GWENDOLYN CHAMBERS



Drugs in our Drinking Water: The Problem of Pharmaceutical Pollution

By Bill Wegner

Research during the past ten years has found that pharmaceuticals have been making their way into our water supplies—including prescription and non-prescription drugs, steroids and hormones. These compounds are released into the environment through wastewater treatment plants and household septic systems.

A 2008 Associated Press investigation showed that an array of pharmaceuticals has been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans in 24 major metropolitan areas. So far, the trace concentrations detected in surface waters have been minute – parts per billion or even parts per trillion. However, because pharmaceuticals are designed to alter our bodily functions and systems, they may pose health risks as their concentrations in drinking water supplies increase over time.

While pharmaceuticals in our water resources may be harmful, it's the hormonal compounds that pose the most significant health risks. Some breakdown products of estrogen compounds are highly toxic to human cells and cause DNA damage in breast and uterine tissue. Even low-level exposure to estrogen compounds alters normal hormone levels in aquatic species. Studies report that male alligators exposed to estrogen in Florida wastewater failed to develop full-sized genitals; other organic wastewater

contaminants have caused infertility in Mississippi River Pike, sex reversal in fish in Great Britain and shellfish spawning too early or too late because of Prozac in their waters.

In addition to the direct effects hormones and other pharmaceuticals have on our bodies, when these compounds combine, they can create even greater toxic reactions. Other threats exist when antibiotics are released into the environment, giving rise to the development of drug-resistant bacteria, and when pharmaceuticals degrade into more persistent compounds and enter surface waters in addition to their parent compounds. Many pharmaceuticals detected in wastewater outflows (effluent) undergo transformation reactions during chlorine disinfection, creating new compounds that have never been tested and may pose unknown health risks.

Because pharmaceuticals are not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act, wastewater treatment plants regularly release prescription drugs into receiving streams in their effluent. Treatment technologies exist to remove these organic wastewater contaminants, but most treatment plant operators have not retrofitted their systems because the expensive undertaking is not required by law.

In 2000, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) surveyed pharmaceutical and other organic wastewater contaminants in 139 U.S. streams in 30 states

and found detectable levels of antibiotics, steroids, hormones, and other prescription and non-prescription drugs. The USGS sampling included eleven sites in the Croton Watershed. All but one of the stream sites contained detectable levels of various steroids and hormones, eight streams contained various antibiotics, and all eleven streams contained various pharmaceutical compounds.

Many of these organic compounds enter and persist in surface waters through human excretion and wastewater disposal. Hallocks Mill Brook, which receives treated effluent from the Yorktown Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant, contained seven steroid and hormone compounds, ten human pharmaceutical compounds and seven organic wastewater compounds. The fact that these drugs were recovered in wastewater effluent streams demonstrates their ability to survive treatment and biodegradation processes.

This past January, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo announced a settlement with five healthcare facilities that flushed pharmaceutical waste into the New York City Watershed. The five facilities are located in Delaware and Putnam Counties and within the New York City Watershed. Riverkeeper supported this initiative and is actively monitoring this emerging issue and threat to our water. More research is needed to fully evaluate the potential human

(Continued on page 15)

health impacts of long-term exposure to trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection began testing NYC reservoirs for pharmaceuticals in 2009; results of that pilot study are pending. In the meantime and for the future, we can help by disposing of unused medications at designated take-back facilities instead of flushing them down our sinks or toilets. If no local collection areas exist, people should follow federal guidelines established for the proper disposal of household pharmaceutical wastes. These guidelines can be found at: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/prescrip_disposal.pdf. Proper disposal of medical waste by healthcare facilities also eliminates the unnecessary introduction of these contaminants to surface water supplies. These proactive practices will reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals entering watershed streams until their potential health impacts can be adequately researched and evaluated to protect consumers and the environment. ■

PHOTO: DAN MARKEE

Victory on Esopus Creek BY CRAIG MICHAELS

In January 2010, the New York State Appellate Division, Third Department handed down another victory for Riverkeeper in our decade-long battle to save Esopus Creek, a renowned trout stream in the heart of the Catskills. Since 2000, Riverkeeper, Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, and other groups have fought New York City's illegal discharges of mud and turbidity into the Esopus.

As part of the New York City drinking water supply, the City has been operating the Shandaken Tunnel since 1924 in order to bring water from the Schoharie Reservoir into Esopus Creek, which then flows into the Ashokan Reservoir. From the Ashokan, the water travels via pipes and aqueducts towards the taps of nine million New Yorkers. Unfortunately, this operation results in massive amounts of turbid, polluted discharges into the Esopus, which has turned the once pristine stream into a muddy river that local fishermen now refer to as "Yoo-hoo Creek."

This legal battle began in 2000 when the staff and students of the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic (the lead attorneys on this matter) filed a federal Clean Water Act citizen suit on behalf of Riverkeeper and four other co-plaintiffs. This action resulted in a \$5.7-million-dollar fine against the City and an order for the City to obtain a permit for its illegal discharges. Once the permit was issued, however, we were forced to file an action in state court against the City and State of New York for issuing an illegal permit that allowed for the City to routinely violate water quality standards. The Supreme Court, Ulster County agreed with us that the permit was illegal and the recent decision from the Appellate Division affirmed the lower court's ruling.

While this latest ruling signals yet another important victory in our fight to protect the Watershed, the mud continues to flow from the Shandaken Tunnel into Esopus Creek and the battle that started over a decade ago remains far from over. Hopefully the City will realize someday soon that if it wants to use streams as conduits for our water supply, it must do so in accordance with state and federal law, and not at the expense of important trout habitat. ■



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Industrial Gas Drilling:

The Fight to Protect New York's Water Supply Continues

By James L. Simpson

The issue of Industrial Gas Drilling throughout a significant portion of New York State rose to the forefront during 2009. Deep below the ground in southern New York lies the Marcellus Shale, a thin layer of sedimentary rock approximately one mile underground, deposited by an ancient river delta. The vast Marcellus Shale extends from Tennessee, through most of West Virginia, across Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, and into the Southern Tier of New York, including the Catskills and the West-of-Hudson portion of the New York City Watershed. New York's portion of the Marcellus Shale is approximately 18,750 square miles.

Gas drilling companies want to tap into this shale reserve and extract natural gas. To do so requires use of a resource-intensive procedure called horizontal drilling using high-volume hydraulic fracturing. Staged from a massive platform (towering hundreds of feet above ground), drillers drill down vertically into the shale, turn 90 degrees to drill horizontally (sometimes for over a mile in length), and then inject millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals under high pressure to release the gas. The pressurized water forms fractures in the rock, which sand and chemicals then pop open.

Since the summer of 2008, Riverkeeper has said that industrial gas drilling is inappropriate within the New York City

Watershed. The affected watershed area is the Catskill/Delaware portion, a large area in the Catskills. Surface impacts alone make industrial gas drilling an unacceptable threat to the high quality of unfiltered drinking water for half the State's population.

New York State recognized the potential environmental impacts from this new technology and directed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct a supplemental environmental review of impacts from it, and to propose measures to mitigate those impacts. This process, carried out in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), involves the preparation and release of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for public review and comment.

DEC released its draft EIS in September 2009. Upon our review, it became evident that DEC rushed to complete this process and is biased towards issuing drilling permits as soon as possible. Moreover, DEC has not demonstrated a willingness to consider certain sensitive environmental areas, such as the New York City Watershed, as off-limits to industrial gas drilling.

Riverkeeper submitted significant comments on this draft document. Our comments totaled over 150 pages and identified over 200 specific problems with the draft EIS. Our comments also included a case studies report that detailed instances in other states where state regulators found that hydraulic fracturing caused drinking

water contamination. Furthermore, together with our environmental partners, NRDC, Earthjustice, and Catskill Mountainkeeper, we retained expert consultants to prepare joint technical comments on DEC's draft EIS.

DEC closed the public comment period on December 31, 2009 and is now reviewing the over 13,000 public comments it received. We expect DEC to respond to these comments in a final EIS and will continue to follow this issue closely. For example, we are monitoring state and federal legislation that may affect where and how industrial gas drilling moves forward.

In addition, in 2009 we issued five volumes of our Industrial Gas Drilling Reporter, a sixth volume earlier this year, and more volumes to come. The Reporter compiles information associated with this activity from around the country – including reports of spills and contamination in other states, updates to New York's ongoing environmental impact review, reports on new and pending legislation, and summaries of the latest information. Our goal is to educate our members and the general public on this important and dynamic issue, and to help ensure that concerned citizens make informed decisions before leasing their land to gas companies. We will continue our fight to ensure that hydraulic fracturing does not threaten anyone's drinking water, whether it flows down from the Catskill Mountains or up from a local well. ■

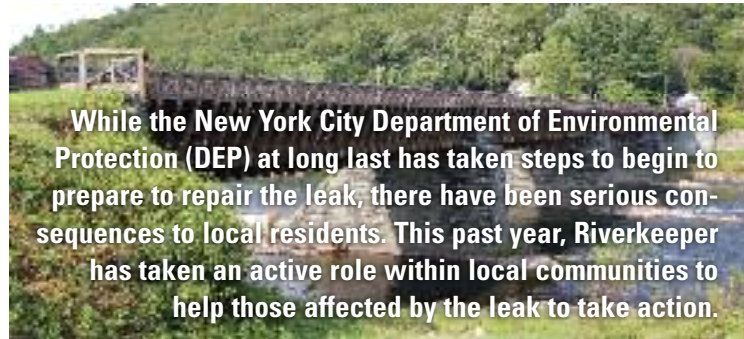
Reaching out to Communities Affected by the Delaware Aqueduct Leak

By James L. Simpson

Since 2001, when Riverkeeper released *Finger in the Dike, Head in the Sand: DEP's Crumbling Water Supply Infrastructure*, we have been the primary watchdog over the leak in the Delaware Aqueduct, which supplies more than half of New York City's daily drinking water. In March 2009, we updated this report with *Preparing to Repair* (available at: <http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/safeguard/dep-water/delaware-aqueductleak/>). While the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at long last has taken steps to begin to prepare to repair the leak, there have been serious consequences to local residents. This past year, Riverkeeper has taken an active role within local communities to help those affected by the leak to take action.

More than nine million State residents enjoy clean, unfiltered drinking water from the New York City Watershed. The 6,000-mile network of pipes, shafts and subterranean aqueducts carries approximately 1.2 billion gallons of pristine water each day from 19 upstate reservoirs to the taps of half the state's population. The vast majority of this water (90%) comes from the Delaware and Catskill Watersheds in the Catskill Mountains. The New York City Watershed and its distribution system are a remarkable engineering achievement and the single largest man-made financial asset in New York State. It is also, without question, the State's greatest natural resource.

The Delaware and Catskill Aqueducts are the only two aqueducts that deliver water from the Catskills, under the Hudson, to downstate consumers. The Delaware Aqueduct, stretching 84 miles, is the longest continuous tunnel in the world. Water flows through it via gravity, crossing 350 feet below the Hudson River. Through this complex system, the Delaware Aqueduct provides approximately 55 percent of the more than one billion gallons of water New York City uses daily. It delivers water collected in the Cannonsville, Pepacton, Neversink and Rondout Reservoirs to the Hillview Reservoir in Yonkers where it enters the City's water supply distribution system. The Delaware Aqueduct, however, has been leaking for decades. For over 20 years, DEP has known of leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct. Specifically, DEP's own leak investigations show that the Rondout West Branch Tunnel has been leaking up to 35 million gallons of water a day at two known leak sites, or approximately one billion gallons a month. This amounts to over one million gallons an hour.



While the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at long last has taken steps to begin to prepare to repair the leak, there have been serious consequences to local residents. This past year, Riverkeeper has taken an active role within local communities to help those affected by the leak to take action.

PHOTO: © 2006 DEREK RAMSEY

There have been serious consequences to people living in areas near the leak. Specifically, in Wawarsing, New York (located east of the Shawangunk Mountains in Ulster County), the aqueduct leak has caused the flooding of homes, contaminated local drinking water wells from flooded septic fields, and also created sinkholes on private lots and adjacent to the Danksammer power plant in Roseton. The problem is so bad in Wawarsing that DEP agreed to provide bottled water to residents, gave them sump pumps for their basements, and installed ultra-violet filters for their well water.

The residents of Wawarsing, together with DEP and other state and local officials, have formed the local Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to update community members on DEP's leak investigation, and to provide a forum to discuss ongoing issues with the leak. Riverkeeper is a member of the PAC, and attends monthly PAC meetings.

At long last, DEP has taken steps to address the Delaware Aqueduct leaks. DEP has begun planning for a third aqueduct to carry water from the Catskill and Delaware Watersheds, under the Hudson River. In fall 2009, DEP kicked off its 5-year project to begin planning for this third tunnel. In 2008, DEP began a 5-year \$240 million project to prepare to repair the leaks. DEP shutdown the Delaware Aqueduct several times since then to do preparatory work on the tunnel before DEP can begin to repair the leaks.

Recently, the New York State Senate passed a bill that would allow New York State to purchase flooded Wawarsing homes. As of this writing, the Assembly is considering this bill and Riverkeeper is supporting it. It would, at long last, provide Wawarsing residents an end to their nightmare. Riverkeeper will continue to monitor and report on this very important issue and work with residents in affected communities. ■

cover story

By John Lipscomb,
Tina Posterli & Josh Verleun

PHOTOS BY JOHN LIPSCOMB UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

The Next Chapter: Riverkeeper, Clean Water & You!

FOR OVER 44 YEARS, Riverkeeper has been working with concerned citizens to defend and preserve the integrity of the Hudson River and its watershed. It's this partnership with our members and community stakeholders that has enabled us to bring hundreds of polluters to justice and force them to spend hundreds of millions of dollars remediating the Hudson.

One of the most powerful examples of this partnership in action is the story of the investigation into St. Lawrence Cement and Lehigh Northeast Cement Company, and how working together to apply steady pressure on polluters ultimately wins out in the battle for clean water. It's a story best told through the patrol logs of John Lipscomb, Riverkeeper Patrol Boat Operator, and Josh Verleun, Staff Attorney & Chief Investigator, the two people most in the trenches during this 5-year, ongoing enforcement effort.

Case #1 is opened: St. Lawrence Cement

June 14, 2005

JOHN: "Today I had a group of students aboard. We weren't on a pollution patrol; I was just supporting their professor who is also a friend and Riverkeeper member. In passing, he mentioned that as a young man fishing in Inbocht Bay, north of the St. Lawrence Cement (SLC) jetty, he remembered seeing grey plumes of what looked like dust in the water at the southwest corner of the bay, and said 'you ought to check on that sometime.' I started a report file (our standard procedure), and made a note to come back late in the year when the water chestnut beds would be gone and I would have access." [Photo 1]

December 6, 2005

JOHN: "This is the last patrol of the year before ice sets in. I anchored the patrol boat and launched the small skiff. I checked the southwest corner of Inbocht Bay where the member had told me to look and found a massive pump station, which might have been the discharge point he saw in his youth. Now it's a decrepit, abandoned building, obviously, no longer in service. Nothing was found today, but the file will stay open." [Photo 2]

June 27, 2006

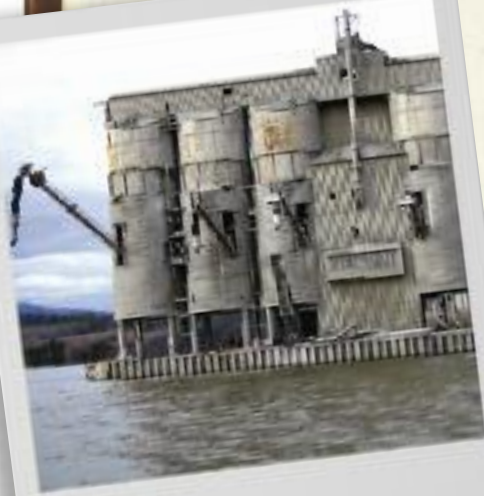
JOHN: "We're back in the area on our monthly standard northbound patrol. Riverkeeper attorney, Jay Simpson, aboard for the day, spotted another building, this one in Duck Cove, South of the SLC jetty. Maybe this is the discharge point the member was talking about. We have the same problem here; the Duck Cove waters are very shallow and choked with floating vegetation. We'll have to wait for winter to investigate."

November 18, 2006

JOHN: "I'm southbound from Troy on a monthly patrol. I explored Duck Cove with the skiff again and found another abandoned pump building, once an intake station. Still nothing found, but I'll keep looking. Old pump houses sure are scary looking things. It was more than a little frightening exploring here alone, I imagine a ladder breaking and getting stuck inside - underground. Glad to be back on the patrol boat!" [Photo 3]

November 27, 2006

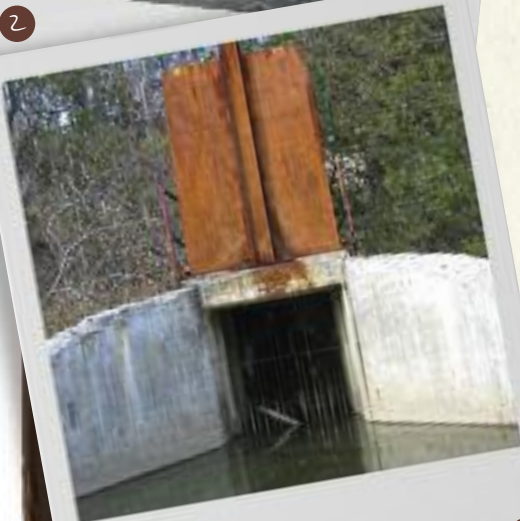
JOHN: "Nine days later, we made our annual helicopter patrol. All the leaves are off the trees now, so we got a good view beyond what we can normally see from the water, looking behind barriers that block our view from the boat like railroad



1



2



3

trestles and hillsides and into shallow bays that are inaccessible. Bingo! We discovered a huge plume of grey, murky water being discharged south of the jetty by SLC. Here we go, hard evidence for case #1!" [Photo 4]

November 28, 2006

JOHN: "One day later, Riverkeeper attorneys send a Notice of Intent to Sue to SLC for a Clean Water Act violation. The polluter has 60 days to comply. I imagine being on the receiving end of one of these letters is like waking up to find a giant python wrapped around you. With each sentence you read, its coils squeeze you tighter and tighter. I love seeing the "Cc" list on these things. In this case, it's the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Attorney General, EPA Regional Administrator, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the New York State Attorney General and the Regional Director of the New York State DEC. The minute this letter is sent to these parties, there's no way for the polluter to ignore it! In addition, when we reviewed the photographs after the flight, we saw some grossly discolored ponds next to one of the kiln dust landfills owned by Lehigh Northeast Cement (LNC). So, we've been pursuing the initial member tip for a year and a half and not only did we hit pay dirt, but at the same time, we found a new pollution source and opened a second investigation."

November 29, 2006

JOHN: "Two days after the flight, the *Times Herald-Record* ran a front page story with a big photo of the SLC discharge. This is major for us. It's absolutely necessary for locals to understand our efforts on their behalf. This is the paper for communities around SLC like Catskill, Saugerties, Athens and Hudson."

December 4, 2006

JOHN: "I called the member to thank him for the tip he gave us back in June 2005. It's wonderfully satisfying to be able to call back and report success to a tipster or a member."

January 25, 2007

JOHN: "Fifty-nine days into the 60 day waiting period, Riverkeeper received a letter from SLC attorneys and, as usual, they deny any wrongdoing, but take great pains to illustrate all the steps they've taken and will take to stop the problem. That's great. We don't care if they admit wrongdoing, what we care about is that the pollution source stops. We put our Clean Water Act lawsuit on hold, but will be back to check and see if SLC complies—we'll keep watching."

April 28, 2007

JOHN: "During my first patrol north in the spring, I stopped to check the site of the SLC pollution which we saw on November 27, 2006 and all was well, there is no longer any discharge into the bay." [Photo 5]

Case #2: Investigation into Lehigh Northeast Cement Company

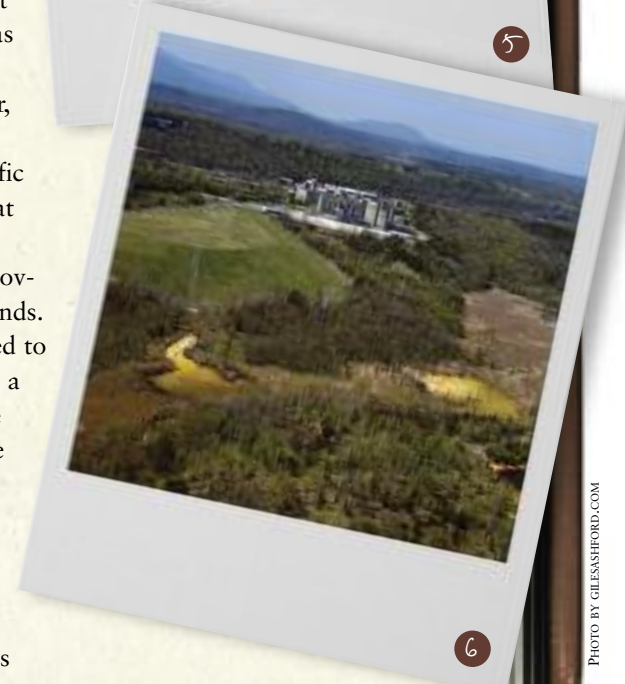
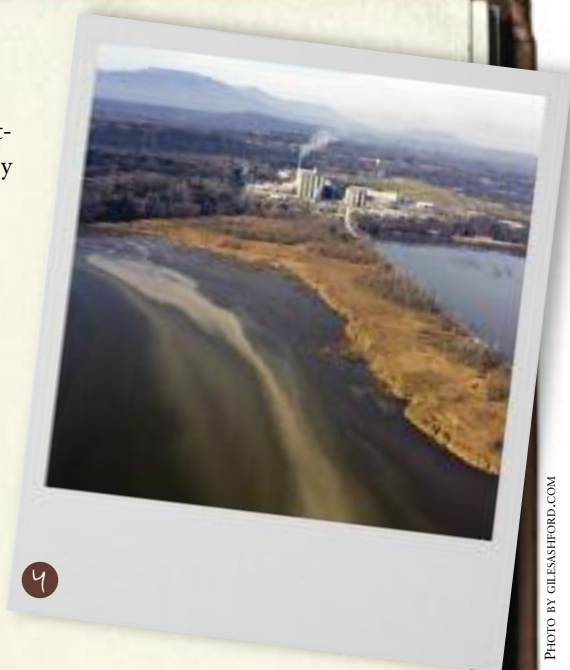
August, 2007

JOSH: "My first day at Riverkeeper, fresh out of law school. Basil Seggos, Riverkeeper's Chief Investigator, handed me a file. It contained a copy of the November, 2006 Notice of Intent to Sue SLC, and pictures of alien-looking bright yellow ponds sitting right next to the river. Because Lehigh and SLC sit directly next to each other on the west bank of the river, our first thought was that the ponds are part of SLC. As a newly minted Riverkeeper investigator, my job was to eagerly spend the next several months digging through scientific studies and working to figure out what kind of pollution could be caused by cement kiln dust, which is what I discovered was in the landfill next to the ponds. John and I also decided that we needed to see these ponds up close, and planned a reconnaissance trip to gather evidence and figure out what was causing these ponds to turn this shocking color."

[Photo 6]

November 27, 2007

JOSH: "We set out today to begin our investigation into the discolored ponds we saw from the helicopter last fall.



(Continued on page 20)



7

We surveyed Duck Cove using the skiff and had a preliminary look. It turns out that they are man-made settling ponds carved out of a pre-existing wetland at the base of LNC's northern kiln dust landfill. Water percolating through the landfill is picking up contaminants and waste products and carrying them into these ponds. The color of the water is caused by super fine yellowish cement dust. All the trees that once stood in the wetland are dead. The only signs of life are some small, dead fish in

one of the ponds. We're appalled by what we see here. We did a preliminary investigation and took an initial round of photographs. We'll have to review the existing permits in place for this landfill back at the office." [Photos 7 & 8]

Case #3: More violations at St. Lawrence Cement

January 3, 2008

JOSH: "Today we heard from an anonymous "watchdog" alleging major environmental problems on the St. Lawrence property. He's given this same report to state officials without success and because of the press coverage about the SLC discharge; he was compelled to contact us. This is now the third case related to the cement plants that started in 2005 and a perfect example of why this kind of media coverage is so critical for us. It engages the public and encourages them to speak up and come to us so we can independently investigate and report alleged violations to the DEC. This kind of tip can sometimes slip through the cracks if reported directly to a state official. The power of a report from Riverkeeper is that our collective voice is very hard to ignore."

Case #1 closes: Case #2 continues

April 23, 2008

JOSH: "We took our annual helicopter patrol. Good news and bad news: the SLC discharge site of November 2006 has truly ceased and all is well; the bad news is that close aerial photographs of the Lehigh ponds show a massive problem. This particular case is a great example of how valuable

a helicopter patrol is. There's no way to see these ponds from the river because of the small hill, but they are draining into Duck Cove and right into the Hudson." [Photo 9]

May 14, 2008

JOHN: "We returned with the skiff to further investigate the Lehigh landfill leachate causing the yellow ponds south of Duck Cove. Investigating this case reminds me of how important it is when you get an initial tip from a member not to close the file until you figure out what it was about. Some tips we get are false alarms and sometimes we just looked in the wrong place at first."

June 21, 2008

JOHN: "The problem with cement kiln dust leachate is that it often has a very high pH, so we needed to know what's in those yellow ponds. In the course of the monthly patrol, I returned to the ponds alone in the skiff. This was my first time visiting the place in the summer and it was miserable. Killer horse flies, deer flies, ticks and heat. I measured the pH in the pond closest to the landfill and it's 12.33. This is horrible! The typical pH of household bleach is 12.5. No wonder there's nothing living in these ponds. In spite of this, Duck Cove itself is a beautiful place. I saw a bald eagle fishing at the edge of the shallows and a giant snapper near my landing place. It's beautiful, wild habitat that needs to be protected." [Photos 10 & 11]

Case #3 comes to a close: Action taken on anonymous watchdog tip

June and July, 2008

JOSH: "The DEC followed up on the anonymous report about SLC. This time, there's been action. The DEC has entered into two separate Consent Orders with SLC on these numerous violations and fined them \$85,000. I contacted the guy who gave us the tip and he said, 'Wow! This is exciting news. I'm so happy to help. Protecting the environment is very important to us. This is the community we live in and the river is a place where we used to be able to take our kids to swim and fish. Thanks for the update and your dedication to investigating our report.' Great! Case 3, closed."



8



9

Clock ticks for Lehigh in case #2

July 10, 2008

JOSH: “Back to case 2, the toxic, yellow ponds. Riverkeeper sends LNC a Clean Water Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Notice of Intent to Sue over the leachate ponds. Our Notice alleges that they are causing an imminent danger to the environment and dumping pollution into the river without a permit, in flagrant violation of the Clean Water Act. Here we go, the 60 day clock starts.”

September 10, 2008

JOSH: “The 60 day waiting period ends for LNC. Lo and behold, on the final day, LNC and NY State DEC announced they’ve entered into a consent agreement. Lehigh will pay a \$50,000 fine and be forced to design and build containment and treatment for the leachate from the landfill and remediate the ponds, which are part of a natural wetland. So it’s kind of case closed, but really not case closed because a paper agreement often doesn’t equal a completed remediation. We’re going to have to stay on this and make sure that the consent agreement is enforced.”

Enforcement handed down on case #4: More trouble at Lehigh Northeast Cement

November 10, 2009

JOSH: “We did our annual aerial patrol and rechecked the area. SLC is still fine, which is good, but there’s no remediation yet at the yellow LNC ponds. We also found a fourth case! There’s a new leachate outbreak flowing into the Hudson, unbelievable! We photographed it and forwarded our photos to the DEC.” [See photo 12]

JOHN: “I realized after these patrols that this series of cases is a perfect example of why Riverkeeper must exist. Over the years, imagine how many state, federal and law enforcement officials have flown up and down the Hudson Valley and looked onto these very shores, seeing these same plumes of cement dust and yellow toxic ponds. You don’t have to have any scientific

expertise whatsoever to recognize that there’s a major problem right in front of your eyes. All any one of them would have had to do is make a phone call. These people have the duty and the authority to deal with these problems. But nothing happened until Riverkeeper came along and picked up these cases.”

December 23, 2009

JOSH: “The DEC enforcement is handed down on case #4 against LNC over the leachate in the southern landfill. The DEC issued yet another Consent Order, fined LNC \$150,000, and mandated them to set aside \$75,000 to fund an environmental benefits project. Although specifics are not finalized yet, this money will go to a project that will directly benefit the environment and the Hudson River. So, we’re up to four enforcements after two citizen tips, nine boat patrols, three helicopter patrols, two Notices of Intent to Sue, six DEC Consent Orders and five years of work. Who knows what we’ll see or hear of next at these sites?”

JOHN: “We’ll be back upriver with the boat starting in April, 2010 and will continue to monitor this area. We’ll follow-up on the existing enforcement actions, we’ll follow-up on the wetland remediation—we’ll follow-up until it’s done!”

So, take note Riverkeeper and community members, remember this story. It shows your power to take on some of the nation’s biggest corporations and advocate for New York’s most majestic natural resource.

Although Riverkeeper has the people and tools to make these successes happen, we need the continued support and collaboration of our members and the public in order to continue to protect and restore our waterways. Together we have true grassroots power! ■



10



11



12

News about Riverkeeper events, volunteers, donors and staff

Quadricentennial Celebrations in 2009

Last year marked the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s arrival on our shores. Riverkeeper honored this quadricentennial anniversary, along with thousands of New Yorkers, at special events throughout the Hudson River Valley.

With a generous grant from the Austen-Stokes Ancient Americas Foundation, we designed a touring exhibit on the Hudson River—complete with videos, maps, and historic perspective—that toured the length of Valley, visiting communities from Manhattan to Albany. We also created an online version of the exhibit, and its companion brochure, *A Glimpse of the Lenape: the Night Before*, by author Daniel Wolff. If you haven’t seen them yet, visit the “Hudson River Journey” online today at www.riverkeeper.org/ Hudson-River/Hudson-River-Journey/.

Riverkeeper’s patrol boat set sail as a participant in the weeklong Hudson River Flotilla which retraced Henry Hudson’s voyage and docked at towns along the way where thousands of river lovers came out to welcome the fleet. Captain John Lipscomb, ever the Riverkeeper, was also pulling his monthly water samples as the flotilla made its way upriver.

One of the highlights of the Quadricentennial year was the coming together of the leaders of Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson and Clearwater. The three Hudson River organizations laid out their shared vision for our region in the coming decade. That vision includes clean water, abundant fish, the completion of GE’s PCB cleanup, protected lands for public river access, a heritage trail the length of the river on both shores, and an economic revival driven by investment in green jobs and sustainable development in our towns and cities.



Photos 1 and 2: Members of the public enjoying Riverkeeper’s Hudson River Journey exhibit. Photo 3: Alex Matthiessen at joint press conference in celebration of the Quadricentennial. Photo 4: Jeff Rumpf, Executive Director of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater; Alex Matthiessen, Hudson Riverkeeper & President; and Ned Sullivan, President of Scenic Hudson – proclaimed that now is the time to spur increased awareness of the Hudson River’s importance as a natural resource and a foundation for creating a sustainable economic future for the valley.

Hamptons EcoSalon

On Saturday, August 22nd, 2009, George and Joan Hornig welcomed more than 100 guests to their home in the Hamptons for Riverkeeper’s first EcoSalon event. The idea behind the EcoSalon is to introduce the top environmental policy makers to thought leaders in the fields of politics, science, the arts, business and entertainment and to share perspectives on many of our most challenging issues.

After George and Joan welcomed guests, Christie Brinkley shared her personal reasons for being a long-time supporter of Riverkeeper. Alex Matthiessen introduced Van Jones, President Obama’s former Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on the Council on Environmental Quality, as the special guest speaker.

Following an engaging talk and Q&A between the guests and Van, the co-host committee joined George and Joan for a delicious “green dinner,” featuring favorite selections of local fish and poultry, produce and desserts.



Alex Matthiessen, Christie Brinkley and Van Jones at the Hamptons EcoSalon.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANN WATT



Westchester EcoSalon

Richard Gere and Carey Lowell welcomed guests to their charming Bedford Post Inn on Tuesday, December 1st, 2009 for Riverkeeper's Westchester EcoSalon. Generously hosted by Howard and Susan Rubin, the event welcomed renowned environmental expert Jeffrey Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, to the barn loft as the featured guest.

Following a thought provoking dialogue between Alex Matthiessen and Jeffrey Sachs, members and guests engaged in a Q&A session. Guests then moved to the Farmhouse, where Howard and Susan hosted a sumptuous dinner in Jeffrey Sachs' honor.

Photos above, clockwise from top: EcoSalon at Bedford Hills Inn, Riverkeeper attorneys Rebecca Troutman and Phillip Musegaas (far left and far right), Professor Jeffery D. Sachs and Alex Matthiessen. Host Richard Gere. Alex Matthiessen and Professor Jeffery D. Sachs discuss issues ranging from water protection to the state of American politics.

Fishermen's Ball

The 2009 Fishermen's Ball lived up to being "one of New York's liveliest and most anticipated events." The evening honored legends and icons from every walk of life. Mayor Michael Bloomberg shared his long term vision for the city's healthy environmental future; Majora Carter reminded us that an individual can have a direct impact imposing environmental solutions; George Hornig and Howard Rubin demonstrated that Riverkeeper's board leadership is committed to confronting the most chal-

lenging issues; and architect William McDonough inspired us with his coda on ecologically, socially, and economically intelligent planning.

The annual gala took place at Pier 60 on Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009, with ABC newscaster Sade Baderinwa welcoming Hudson Riverkeeper and President Alex Matthiessen, board co-chair Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and 650 guests to Chelsea Piers. After dinner, Tony Bennett entertained guests with his legendary voice and charisma, a fitting tribute to the success of the night,

which raised more than \$1.25 million and attracted 60 new Members to Riverkeeper's Movement.



Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Mary Richardson Kennedy, Majora Carter, Alex Matthiessen, Ham Fish.
PHOTO © DOROTHY HANDELMAN



Mayor Bloomberg
PHOTO © DOROTHY HANDELMAN

JOIN US AT THE 20TH SHAD FESTIVAL AND HUDSON RIVER CELEBRATION
 A day of "green" family fun at Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison, NY
 May 16, 2010
 For ticket information, please visit Riverkeeper.org



PHOTO COURTESY: CAROLINE TOREM CRAIG

Junior Council

Junior Council co-chairs Amanda Hearst and Luigi Tadini were joined by Bobby Kennedy, III, in hosting Blue on June 11, 2009 at the Empire Hotel rooftop deck. The rainy night didn't dampen the spirits of the 120 metro-environmentalists who attended to build upon their interest in Riverkeeper's clean water mission while establishing new advocacy and social networks. As the Junior Council embraces the Membership call to action, watch for upcoming environmental advocacy and networking events.

Join our Riverkeeper Facebook Group at www.facebook.com

With Gratitude and Appreciation

Riverkeeper gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of our private corporate and public supporters and members, who number more than 5,000 a year. Space limitations and eco-wise production standards allow us to present donors of \$500 and greater in this presentation. This listing reflects contributions received between July 1st, 2008 and June 30th, 2009. We are grateful to all our members. For a full listing, please visit Riverkeeper.org.

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



ROAR members aboard the Riverkeeper patrol boat.

A Statement From Religious Organizations Along the River

During 2009, John Lipscomb, Riverkeeper Patrol Boat Operator, and Sr. Carol De Angelo, SC, a member of Religious Organizations Along the River (ROAR), coordinated three boat trips to educate members to issues that affect the life and quality of the Hudson River and the many communities that live within and along it. During these river journeys and conversations with John, we saw clearly the need for the “long view” and developed a deeper awareness of what we expressed in our 1998 ROAR mission statement and which we strive to live out: “we share kinship with all creation” and “human beings and the natural world must go into the future as a single sacred community or both will perish.” These quotes from ROAR’s mission statement are from the writings of Thomas Berry whose life and work have greatly influenced the members of ROAR.

ROAR has been involved in many Hudson River issues over the years. Yet, for those on these Riverkeeper trips, time spent on the Hudson River offered new perspectives and insights. We realized we knew little about the shad, the eel, the Atlantic sturgeon, and the complexity, diversity and wonder of life in the waters of the Hudson. We felt drawn to educate ourselves and advocate on behalf of life forms living in the Hudson River who are voiceless and have need for someone to speak for them, especially the young of species who are in peril. ROAR’s mission statement calls us to support one another in using our lands (and we include water in this) with an attitude of respect for the beauty and integrity of Earth. So, ROAR, through its Hudson River Issues Subcommittee, is educating itself on shad/herring issues and advocating on behalf of them.

ROAR is a network of religious congregations and organizations, many of whom have property in the Hudson Valley of New York State. Representatives from member congregations/organizations meet four times a year and communicate regularly through emails, phone and subcommittee work. We collaborate with many groups (one of which is Riverkeeper) who share common concerns and values. We have been especially inspired and challenged by John Lipscomb’s dedication and commitment to the Hudson River and its communities of life. He has helped put a face (the shad) on that part of our mission statement that reads, “human beings and the natural world must go into the future as a single sacred community or both will perish.”

Written by Carol De Angelo, SC, on behalf of ROAR, February 19, 2010.

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VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: Riverkeeper Ambassador and Champion Programs Set Sail

By Heartie Look

Over the past year, Riverkeeper's volunteers have truly exemplified what it means to be a guardian of the Hudson and its surrounding watershed areas. With the help of volunteers, we were able to tour our Hudson River Journey exhibit throughout the spring and summer, educating the public about the local water resources we protect.

Our time spent in areas as far north as Albany and as far south as the Big Apple spurred us to think of ways we can make our ties within these communities stronger and build a greater network of support. To achieve these goals, we started

the successful Community Ambassador and Champion programs this past fall. Ambassadors are the community organizers and representatives of Riverkeeper, while Champions help to raise the necessary financial support for Riverkeeper's advocate activities on the water, in the courts, and at our headquarters. Our current Ambassadors and Champions are made up of a team of 15 leaders from all walks of life. Two of our Ambassadors are authors who take Riverkeeper with them on the road, speaking about our mission at their book signing events, and giving out Riverkeeper bookmarks with each book they sell. Another Ambassador will become a Champion this April when she opens a collaborative eco-retail shop in Manhattan, donating proceeds to Riverkeeper. And yet another Ambassador will be connecting us to the fishing and yacht clubs along the Hudson, imparting crucial knowledge about the health and history of the river to its members.

In addition to our Ambassador and Champion programs, our other activities continued to provide invaluable support, including our Ring up the River program, in which "River Ringers" made friendly calls to our members to ensure we had their correct contact information and thanked them for their ongoing support. Riverkeeper volunteers are shining examples of how people can roll up their sleeves and work together for clean water.



Riverkeeper volunteers at Reflected Light art auction.

©DORIS GOODMAN



Meet Riverkeeper Logo Contest Winner Sabine Reichert

By TINA POSTERLI

At the end of 2009, Riverkeeper launched its first-ever logo design contest in order to cast a wider net for a fresh, new perspective to symbolically represent the essence of who we are as an organization.

We received nearly 500 entries, which were boiled down to a final few in a very close competition. The winning design was by Sabine Reichert, a Hastings-on-Hudson resident, whose image instantly captured the key elements of what we stand for in one succinct symbol.

Sabine received her Masters in Illustration and Communication Design from the HAW College in Hamburg, Germany. She has worked as a Graphic Designer for 15 years in New York freelancing for clients in the health and beauty packaging and software and engineering sectors. Some of her more prominent clients have included Unilever, Colgate and Del Laboratories.

Following is a Q&A with Sabine about her experience:



What made you decide to enter the Riverkeeper new logo contest?

"I've been on the Riverkeeper mailing list, and in one of the eNewsletters, I followed a link to the contest. I've never been big on contests and haven't entered one since much earlier on in my career, but this one caught my interest. I felt that if I won, I could really make a contribution to an organization I believe in."

How did you come up with the concept of your design? "I like clean, simple ideas. The Riverkeeper logo was a challenge, as it needed to represent a spectrum of elements in one symbol. I knew it was important to correctly identify these elements and define where the emphasis should be. For my final version of the logo, I started dividing a water drop that symbolized water in general, with a zigzag line for the river. I then built in the importance of the fish. By coloring and shaping the left side, I symbolized the impact of our water on the people living communities on the land."

What did winning the contest mean to you? "I enjoyed the challenge of the contest and the opportunity to design a logo for an organization that is so relevant to me. Because of my German origin, I have a tendency to be an environmentalist. I am aware of how important the work of Riverkeeper is and am honored to have my design chosen to represent this organization."

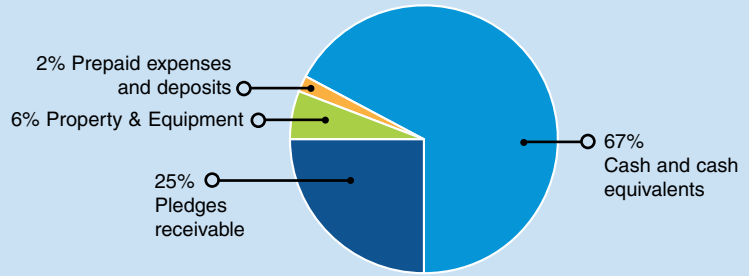
Visit www.riverkeeper.org and sign-up for our E-Newsletter and E-Alerts to stay current on news and events.

BALANCE SHEET*

As of June 30, 2009

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,279,753
Pledges receivable	\$ 472,349
Property and Equipment (net)	\$ 106,939
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$ 33,650
Total Assets	\$ 1,892,691



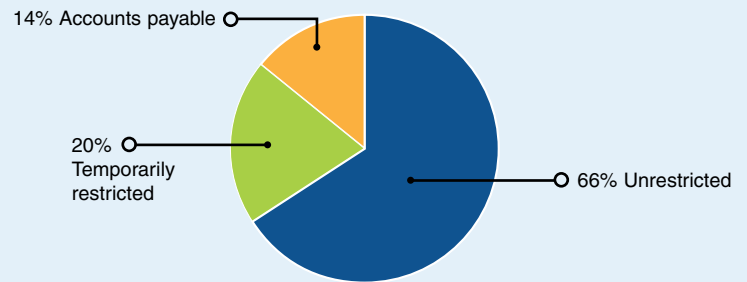
LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$ 268,388
Total liabilities	\$ 268,388

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 1,252,265
Temporarily restricted	\$ 372,038
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,624,303

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 1,892,691

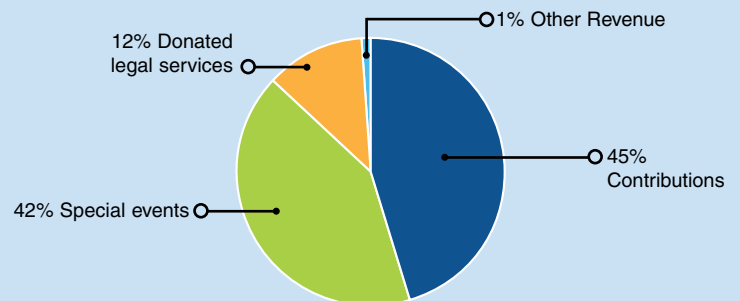


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION*

Year ended June 30, 2009

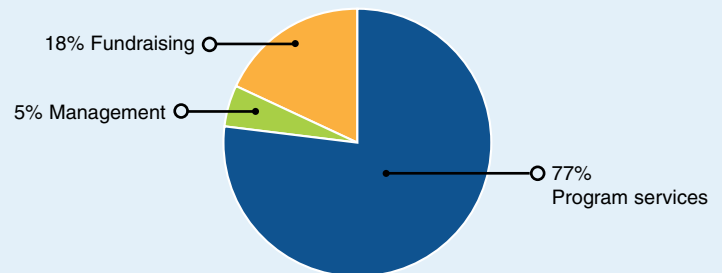
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$ 1,409,961
Special events	\$ 1,289,419
Donated legal services	\$ 370,571
Other revenue	\$ 40,654
Total support and revenue	\$ 3,110,605



EXPENSES

Program services	\$ 2,964,940
Management	\$ 199,331
Fundraising	\$ 698,960
Total Expenses	\$ 3,863,231



Surplus/Increase in Net Assets \$ (752,626)

*BASED ON THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009
REPORTS PREPARED BY KATARINA DUPLESSY, VP/COO



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