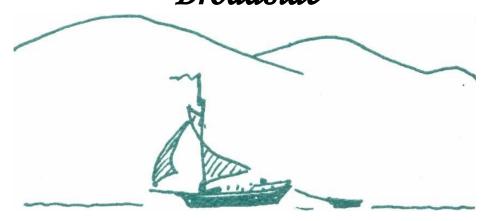
# Beacon Sloop Club Broadside



Volume 48 Issue 12

January 2021

### Serving the Hudson River with Pride for 48 Years

### A Message from Our President

As events in the Capitol continue to rapidly unfold, I feel most fortunate to be part of our grounded, united Sloop Club community as we prepare to usher in a new era of optimism and democracy.

A year ago, who could have ever imagined we would start this year excited about vaccines, real live festivals, Woody guest sails, potlucks with food, live music and actually meeting together, in person, in the Sloop Club, without masks?

The word Zoom used to be a speedy little verb, not a lifeline to other humans - yet we've mastered it (to various degrees), and Google Meet, and elevated it all to an amazing Holiday Sing, well attended, full of great music and our favorite friends. Together we raised over \$1500 for Common Ground's Food Assistance Program, which they matched, resulting in over \$3000 for our local food pantries - the most we've ever donated!

Thank you to all our wonderful musicians, and to everyone who participated and donated. Special kudos to Alan, our Zoommaestro, to Aaron, our inveterate Holiday Sing MC, and hearty congratulations to Mel and Vinnie for winning our Covid Carol Challenge along with a \$50 donation to Common Ground in their name.

These next months, we'll keep connected through exciting lectures, Google Meetings, and sailor Zooms. In addition, Clearwater is hosting a fascinating weekly webinar series. Come join in!

May the changes ahead bring us peace and unity. Wishing you all a safe, healthy and joyous 2021-

Susan

### Inside this issue:

Holiday cheer in the days of covid, a win for the Hudson, more work to do, upcoming events and much, much more.....



NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING Tuesday, January 26, 6:00 p.m. NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, February 5 7:30 p.m., Potluck at 6:30 p.m.

ame Street Address				
ity State ZIP Phone Email				
Household Membership donation \$ Renewal New Member				
Membership suggested donation \$25.00. Minimum of \$10.00. Please give more if you can afford it!  If you can't afford the minimum, the fee may be waived.				
Newsletter format (check one): Printed E-mail Please consider e-mail it saves money and paper.				
dditional Members at this address Email				
Email				
Would you like information on Clearwater Membership?				
Mail to: Beacon Sloop Club P.O. Box 527 Beacon, NY 12508  Link to Online Renewal: http://beaconsloop.org/Join.html				
The Beacon Sloop Club Broadside  BSC Officers 2021				

is the official monthly newsletter of the Beacon Sloop Club, Inc.

The **Beacon Sloop Club, Inc.** is a non-profit, volunteer environmental education/action and sailing organization dedicated to cleaning up the Hudson River and its environs. Our main focus is the Beacon, Fishkill and Newburgh area.

Members meet the first Friday of every month at the Sloop Club Building located just across from the Beacon train station. Look for the building with the Norway spruce tree growing out of the roof! A potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; bring a covered dish to share and your own place setting. The general meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and lasts about an hour or so. The meeting is followed by a sing-along.

The Beacon Sloop Club and newsletter are accessible from the web: www.beaconsloopclub.org.

### **Woody Captains:**

Jim Birmingham, Patrick Gallagher, Tom LaBarr, Ben Mazer. Steve Schwartz,

President: Susan Berliner (845)527-8671 Vice President: Vince Farina (845)656 9546 intraining\_99@yahoo.com Treasurer: Aaron Verdile (914)503-6227 EXTproductions@hotmail.com Secretary: Tom Elliott (518) 265-6676 tomelliott789@gmail.com

### **BSC Committee Chairs and Contacts**

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Woody Scheduling:

Susan Berliner

### **Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting**

Minutes, January 1, 2021, recorded by Tom Elliott

**Ken Miller** sang "Sloop Club Circle" for us and Susan called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., wishing everyone happy New Year.

Treasurer Aaron shared the Profit and Loss Report for October 2020, which is in the newsletter, below. Next, he presented the 2021 Budget, approved by the board, to the membership for ratification. The budget predicts \$51,900 in income, and expenses of \$57,688. James noted that Festival budgets assume a break even, so are conservative numbers. Alan said that Woody maintenance costs are higher, but grants will be sought to cover them. Alan Z. asked if the shortfall can be covered with general operating funds, and Aaron said, yes, if the gap isn't closed. Alan said the Finance committee will revisit the budget in June to make adjustments. Susan said the budget is realistic. With no more questions, a motion to approve the budget was made by Joyce and seconded by James. The motion was unanimously approved by voice and a show of hands.

**Aaron** next reported that **Venmo**, a subsidiary of Pay Pal, has a new QR code system that will allow us to accept payments made at events directly from Venmo users. They can scan a QR code that we provide, and the payment will be funneled through our existing Pay Pal account. Susan thanked Aaron for his report.

Captain Steve reported that our marina agent in Haverstraw reports that there were no problems for the Woody or its cover during the recent storms. He will be checking in tomorrow to be sure the pumps and new "reptile" heat bulbs are all working properly and to make a general inspection. He said some crews are meeting online. James added that because not much contact between crews has been possible, there will be a full sailors' meeting this Sunday (1/3) at 6:00 p.m. Susan thanked Steve and James for the updates.

Jim Birmingham reported that the docks were taken by White's Marina to New Hamburg on Thursday, so now all Harbor work is complete until spring. The Sloop Club wishes Jim and family the best in the upcoming move, and thanks for all his work with the club over many years.

Manna Jo Greene brought us up to date on Indian Point decommissioning, telling us that the NRC has granted tentative approval for the transfer from Entergy to Holtec. She asks us to please contact our state representatives in the senate and assembly and the governor to ask for public hearings by the NYPSC who can block the transfer. She hopes a better choice can still be made. Manna also told us there are three good environmental bills that have passed in the assembly and senate that are on the governor's desk awaiting signature. On the **Danskammer** gas plant, **Scenic** Hudson has offered an alternative to a new full-time gaspowered plant, using the same site at Danskammer Point, but for a renewable energy project. It could create similar jobs and tax base that local residents fear losing. To learn more, see the discussion on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFBE8mPhPKY. Manna thanked Alan Thomas for his help in a renewable energy grant that Clearwater has been working on.

Alan told us that the winter Lecture Series will begin on the third Thursday in January, with either a representative of the historic sloop Eleanor as speaker, or Alan speaking on his visit to Africa. The February 18<sup>th</sup> lecture will be on The Future of Fungi, by Alyssa of Sugar Shack Mushrooms.

The **clubhouse** on Red Flynn Drive took on some water during the Christmas Eve storm, and the Building Committee is **looking for help from a few volunteers** who can come in to help organize moving equipment to give it a chance to dry out.

Susan reported that the Holiday Sing was a wonderful event, which raised \$1,500 for the Common Ground food assistance program. This amount was matched, making \$3,000 for area food banks. Mel and Vinnie won the Covid Carol challenge, for "Here Comes Covid," and another \$50 was donated by the Sloop Club in their names. Susan thanked all the musicians who performed and all those that attended, with special thanks to Aaron and Alan who ran the show.

Susan explained the **Clearwater Ambassador program** that is being instituted through the Sloop Club Congress. Sloop Clubs create their own page for their members and friends to make donations to Clearwater. The funds all go to Clearwater, but the clubs get recognition, and members may find it an easier way to donate.

Festival Dates: The following dates have been set for festivals, approved by the City of Beacon: Strawberry Festival - June 13, Corn Festival - August 15, Pumpkin Festival - October 17. A decision about the Strawberry Festival will be made in early March related to Covid safety at that time.

Announcements: Manna Jo said the four-lecture series on the Hudson River will begin on Wed. 1/13. Steve Stanne will be the first speaker. The series coincides with the release of the 3rd edition of the Illustrated Guide to the Living River, and all four lectures are now available for \$25.00. Clearwater members attend free through a discount code available when registering. A Gala event is scheduled for March 4. \$20 for general admission and \$250 gets you a ditty bag full of Clearwater merchandise. **Bonnie Champion** is organizing a zoom event with church and sloop club members to recognize Dr. King's birthday, since there is no parade this year. Matt Bowen will provide technical support. Please email her at bonnieichampion@gmail.com with ideas and interest. Alan Z. said the Annual Great Hudson Newburgh to Beacon River Swim will be held on July 29, in the a.m. John McLaughlin told us he is working on a history of projects that were funded by the Hudson River Foundation. Please reach out to him with stories of projects you remember or were involved in. Ken Miller told us he worked recently along the river in Haverstraw and saw oysters growing on a jetty north of Croton Point, evidence that the river is still improving.

With no further announcements, Susan wished us all a happy and healthy new year, and the **Circle of Song** began, led by Ken Miller.

# Hard Work Pays Off: Permanent Ban of Oil Barge Anchorages on the Lower Hudson River

Hopefully this is the end of a long process that so many of you played an important role in. The Sloop Club was well ahead of the pack in opposing the Coast Guard proposal, circulating petitions, writing to local and federal officials, performing at news conferences to raise public awareness and so much more.

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney was able to include a permanent ban on the establishment of new oil barge anchorages between Kingston and Yonkers as an attachment to the *National Defense Authorization Act of 2021*, recently passed into law when congress overrode President Trump's veto.

# If You Would Like to Write to Your Representatives Regarding Another Issue:



The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear Maggy Hurchalla's appeal of the \$4.4 million judgement against her for opposing the Lake Point Project. By declining to hear arguments the court let stand a Florida court award of damages for "tortious interference" leading to Martin County's canceling of the project.

As we learned in Maggie's talk to the Sloop Club, this sets a dangerous precedent for deep-pocketed individuals and corporations to now use tort law to intimidate and penalize individuals opposed to them. This case is particularly troubling because she believed that she was exercising the rights of a citizen to petition her representatives in government and the breach of contract, if there truly was one, was on the part of the county.

### **2020 Holiday Sing**



Congratulations to our Covid-Carol winners, Mel& Vinnie!

Their rendition of *Here Comes Covid* was inspiring, as were all the other entries. No matter how grim the topic, sometimes it helps to smile a little. The Sloop Club donated an additional \$50 in their name to Common Ground Farms Food Support Program, which supplies local food banks and meal delivery agencies.

Speaking of which, our amazing people contributed over \$1500 to support those in our community who need a little help and access to safe and healthy food in these difficult times. With the help of a grant your generosity was doubled. We've been doing this for many years, but this year's event far exceeded anything we have ever done. And it was a lot of fun!

We must thank all of the musicians who gave their time and talent to make this happen. Thank you to Susan for recruiting and organizing this. We had 23 performers signed up, so we had much variety in style and genre, something for everyone. Aaron Verdile did a marvelous job as emcee, keeping the flow smooth and entertaining.

There were some truly spectacular and moving performances as well as some time to socialize and catch up on members from far and wide. Say what you will about that crazy year we just lived through; it was so nice to be able to include our friends who have moved away. If you missed it, you may find a recording on our Facebook page.

Thank You and have a safe and happy new year.

## Indian Point and Danskammer Still Not Too Late to Voice Our Concerns

Two issues that are not yet a done deal that we need to call our representatives about are the use of Holtec Company to decommission Indian Point Power Plant in the town of Buchanan, and Newburgh's Danskammer, fracked fuel power plant which wants to increase its use of fracked fuel. Many local people are involved in these two, and other issues

Manna Jo Greene spoke at the on-line Beacon Sloop Club meeting 1/1/21 saying that Clearwater has an urgent action alert requesting citizens contact public officials opposing Danskammer, as the New York Public Service Commission has not yet signed off on this plant's extension. Sandra Kissam, Director of Orange RAPP, reported that Danskammer LLC representatives, now in Article Ten Procedures, are still attempting to obtain the NY State Public Service Commission's approval. They recently submitted, for the fourth time, documentation regarding the safety environmentally of their project. The "Stop Danskammer Coalition" are distributing signs against Danskammer. Contact Scenic Hudson for signs with metal ground mounts.

Unit one of the Indian Point Nuclear Plant was shut down in 1974 because its cooling system did not meet regulatory requirements. Unit two was shut down in April 2020, and Unit three is scheduled for closure April 2021. In November 2020, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff approved the transfer of licensing from Entergy to Holtec for decommissioning of the plant. Holtec has less experience in this process as it has historically been mainly a producer of storage containers for nuclear fuel spent rods and is in the midst of multiple lawsuits. Holtec officials have set the timeline for the removal of spent rods held in water cooling baths to a questionable 13-15 years. What does spent-rod cooling mean?

Spent rods, I read, are very radioactive. They start as uranium then crushed into pellets and put into long metal sealed tubes called fuel pins or rods. As fission (breaking apart of atoms) occurs, the rods emit heat, release energy creating the steam that turns turbines producing electricity at Indian Point. As the uranium fuel is used it becomes less efficient. The rod fission is stopped, and the rods enclosed and placed into water to reduce its radiation.

"The radioactivity drops very dramatically over the first couple of days, and then it goes down by a factor of a hundred over the next several years" (Charles Forsberg, Director of MIT nuclear fuel cycle project/NPR 3/15/11 Joe Palca article). Then the rods are shipped (rail mostly, but trucks and barges are used) to storage sites. Holtec officials have named New Mexico as one site for storage. But that is another issue.

The Governor of New Mexico, near-by state officials, and indigenous groups don't want nuclear wastes dumped on their land. Indigenous groups see this as another form of colonization affecting cultural resources and the health of their people. The Navajo settled in 2017, a \$600 million suit for clean-up of 94 uranium mines (mining which began in 1944). Miners got ill, and the earth and water contaminated.

Letitia James, New York Attorney General, calls the Holtec licensing "very risky," and cited Holtec for their lack of experience in decommissioning (Zambito 11/18/20

Rockland/Westchester Journal News). The Indian Point Nuclear Decommission Citizen Advisory Panel (NDCAP) was a suggestion of Buchanan Mayor (Theresa Knickerbocker) and meets monthly to facilitate discussion among key groups in preparation for the closure and decommissioning. Those involved in these meetings include representatives from Entergy, Holtec, Clearwater, state officials, unions and citizens.

### News across our area:

-A recent Danish study found an increase of COVID infection severity among those exposed to PFAS. Newburgh's water supply was found, in 2016, to be contaminated with PFAS. Its source was found to be firefighting foam used at near-by Stewart Airbase. This chemical is known to deposit in lung tissue (Mid-Hudson Times Vol.32, No.51 12/16-22, 2020).

-On 12/20 it was announced that the New York Common Retirement Fund, the third largest pension fund in the U.S., valued at \$226 billion, has already divested from 22 coal companies, and will evaluate within four years whether other fossil-fuel businesses, such as oil-sands extraction, oil and gas storage, and transportation are, "viable low-carbon transmission pathways." If not, the fund will divest. Also divest from the fossil fuel industry companies that fail to meet minimum environmental standards which do not commit to the NY Climate Leadership Protection Act\* mandate of net zero carbon emission by 2040 (Independent #260 12 2020/21).

(\*This Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 requires N.Y. to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 and offset the remaining 15% with measures such as planting forests and capturing carbon for underground storage. The law will require utilities to get 70% of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2030 (Associated Press July 20, 2019).

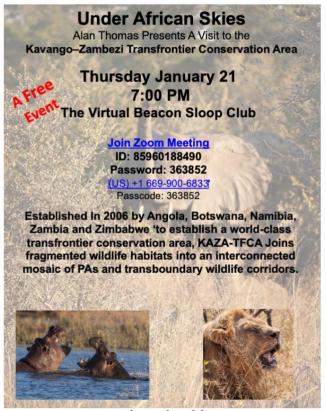
-Jen Metzger, (N.Y. State Senator 42nd District) has lost her seat. She represented all of Sullivan County, parts of Orange, Ulster, and Delaware Counties. She has supported environmental issues, protection of farmland, and fought to ban permanently high-volume fracking. She will continue as the voice of progress in our area in contrast to non-progressive forces clogging our path to a sustainable future for self-serving reasons.

-In conclusion, what is done here in the Hudson Valley, may affect others. Under a photo by Ross Corsair of an unusual red/orange moon, it reads: "Smoke from massive forest fires burning on the West Coast has made its way 3,000 miles across the U.S., creating hazy conditions. It also makes the moon appear red or orange because the two colors have the longest wavelengths and are not absorbed by the particles. The Highlands Current 10/2/2020).

Nora Gallardo Beacon Sloop Club member

### **ZOOM LAND**

#### BEACON SLOOP CLUB WINTER EDUCATION SERIES



www.beaconsloopclub.org



# The future of fungi: Food, medicine, material and more w/ Alisa Javits



# Thursday February 18 7:00 PM

### The Virtual Beacon Sloop Club

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 84707414753 Password: 894235 (US) +1 408-638-0968 Passcode: 894235

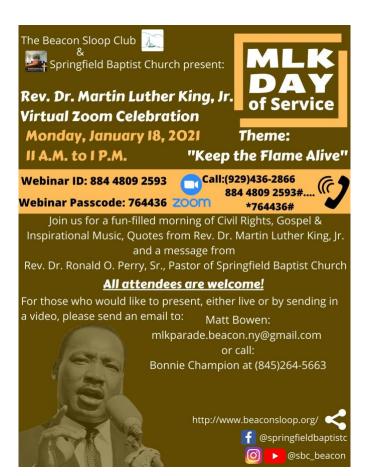


An overview on mushrooms and all that they offer our kitchens, culture and planet. We will discuss how mushrooms grow, methods of cultivation, and their many uses: nutrition, medicinals, therapeutics, environmental remediation, renewable resources and the unknown.



Alisa is a farmer, maker and an artist, she has been farming for over a dozen years. Her farming career began in small scale organic salad and flower growing. Over the last five years she began her studies in the world of mushroom cultivation and started her mushroom farm in 2018, Sugarshack Mushrooms in New Paltz, NY (an uninvited guest on the stolen indigenous lands of the Esopus tribe).

www.beaconsloopclub.org







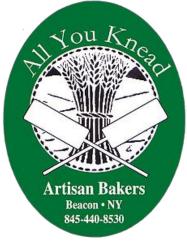
### **Treasury Report - November**

# The Beacon Sloop Club, inc. Profit and Loss

November 2020

		Total	
Income			
Contribution, Gifts, Grants		75.00	
Amazonsmile Foundation		10.81	
Food Pantry donation		20.00	
Woody Nickles		33.00	
Total Contribution, Gifts, Grants	\$	138.81	
Investment Income		15.26	
Interest-Checking		2.33	
Total Investment Income	\$	17.59	
Membership			
Paypal		340.00	
Snailmail		200.00	
Total Membership	\$	540.00	
Total Income	\$	696.40	
Gross Profit	\$	696.40	
Expenses			
Bank Expense			
Paypal		9.88	
Total Bank Expense	\$	9.88	
Facilities			
Utilities		34.62	
Woody Maintenance		1,398.17	
Total Facilities	\$	1,432.79	
Other Expenses			
Insurance - Liability, D and O		14,172.25	
Website		19.37	
Total Other Expenses	\$	14,191.62	
Total Expenses	\$	15,634.29	
Net Operating Income	-\$	14,937.89	
Net Income	-\$	14,937.89	
Opening Cash Balance 11/1/2020	\$	108,737.71	
Closing Cash Balance 11/30/2020	\$	93,799.82	
Change in Investment Value	\$	1,134.01	
Total Balance 11/30/2020	\$	94,933.83	
		-	
Unrestricted	\$	70,826.60	
Restricted (total)	\$ \$ \$	22,973.22	
B & S Rozinsky Fund 11/30/2020	\$	18,231.99	
-		•	
Board designated funds	\$	5,001.96	





### **WOODY NICKELS**

Go to the Fishkill Redemption Center and tell them to put your deposit proceeds in the Beacon Sloop Club envelope. Ask for a receipt.

### A&A Redemption Centers 794 Rt. 52 Fishkill

(across from Fishkill recreational center)

### Open 7 Days:

Monday-Saturday: 9:30-5:30 Sunday: 10:00-4:00

www.bottlecanreturns.com

#### Containers Accepted:

They accept all soda and beer bottles and cans, water bottles, and other beverage cans, and all store brands of New York State returnable bottles and cans. They do not except Gatorade, Snapple, vitamin water, ice teas, Powerade, or juice bottles. (Please make certain all your containers are NY State returnable.)

### Count Them Before You Come In:

You can save time by counting your cans and bottle before you go to the center. Put them in a clear bag labeled with the quantity.

Please rinse all your containers!

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### **Current Calendar**

Rev, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Virtual Zoom Celebration
Monday, January 18
11 am – 1 pm

Webinar ID: 884 4809 2593 Webinar Passcode: 764436 Call:(929)436-2866 884 4809 2593#.... \*764436#

Under African Skies Thursday January 21 7:00 PM

The Virtual Beacon Sloop Club Join Zoom Meeting

ID: 85960188490 Password: 363852 (US) +1 669-900-6833

Passcode: 363852

### **BSC Executive Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, January 23 6:00 – 8:30pm Meeting ID

 $\underline{https://meet.google.com/bcr-vgwc-pak}$ 

Join by phone

(US) +1 662-502-2773 PIN: 481 767 331#

### **Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting**

Friday, February  $5 \cdot 6:30 - 10:00$ pm

Join with Google Meet

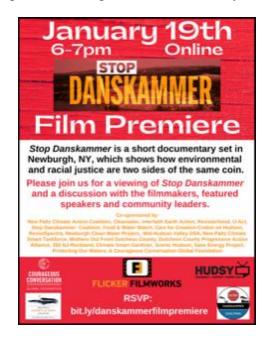
meet.google.com/onm-gkfs-hrc
Join by phone

+1 803-587-8953 PIN: 802 049 943#





Anyone wishing to join a Woody crew can contact any captain or James Malchow to sign up. No experience is required. We will train you.



**RSVP** - Registration Link

January 20: Dr. Roger Panetta – "New Ways of Seeing: Panoramas of the Hudson River

To Register

February 18: The future of fungi: Food, medicine, material and more w/ Alisa Javits

Details of calendar events may be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

For more info about the BSC: www.beaconsloop.org, or www.beaconsloopclub.org