



Serving the Hudson River with Pride for 55 Years

A Message from Our President

We thank Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Environmental Action Director Jen Benson for speaking at our January membership meeting. She ably outlined Clearwater's environmental priorities for 2024. Her comments were informative, insightful, and enthusiastically received.

Her presence reminds us of the close bond between the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and the Beacon Sloop Club, and how our destinies are linked, our missions are similar and our origin stories are intertwined.

Both organizations are the brainchild of Pete Seeger. The Sloop *Clearwater* was built in 1969 to bring public attention to the grotesquely polluted Hudson River. Our own sloop, *Woody Guthrie*, was constructed soon after, for the same general purpose, on a more intimate scale. Pete envisioned sloop clubs, such as the Beacon Sloop Club all along the shores of the Hudson to support the Sloop *Clearwater* on its sails. Over the years, our club has grown into a position of prominence among those clubs.

Both organizations were pioneers in the nascent environmental movement. In the early years, our shared goal of restoring the Hudson River was widely ridiculed as being unrealistic and quixotic. Yet both organizations persevered and today the Clearwater and the Beacon Sloop Club are leaders in the environmental movement.

The original founders of the Beacon Sloop Club were all members of the Clearwater, and that continued for about 25 years. Today, many of us are active Clearwater members. Currently, one of our

board members also serves on Clearwater's board, and others occupy key roles in that organization. From the Clearwater Revival to the pumpkin sails, members of our club always participated in Clearwater activities. Today, members of both groups continue that tradition of cooperation.

During the pandemic when Clearwater's viability was threatened, our club provided a lifeline. We continue to support Clearwater, and they generously acknowledge our efforts.

We are fully committed to the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. We are excited to join them in addressing the environmental priorities Jen enunciated at our January membership meeting, because their priorities are our priorities and their success is our success.

Rob

Inside this issue:

Groundhog Blues, reconstructing climate history, upcoming events, and much, more....



NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING Wednesday February 21, 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Potluck at 6:30 p.m.

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ 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.

Additional Members at this address _____ Email _____

_____ Email _____

Would you like information on Clearwater Membership? I would like to help with _____

Mail to: Beacon Sloop Club P.O. Box 527 Beacon, NY 12508

[Link to Online Renewal](#)

The **Beacon Sloop Club Broadside** 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, James Malchow,
Ben Mazer, Steve Schwartz,

BSC Officers 2023

President:	Robert May	(845)661-5123	robertmay2394@gmail.com
Vice President:	Vince Farina	(845)656 9546	intraining_99@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Aaron Verdile	(914)503-6227	EXTproductions@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Trish Murphy		missstrishy1986@gmail.com

BSC Committee Chairs and Contacts

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Environment:	Tom LaBarr	(845)831-4267	labarrt@gmail.com
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	Mark McNutt		
Festival Coordinator:	Patricia Finnerty	(267)908 0716	patriciafinnerty267@gmail.com
Festival Music:	Susan Berliner	(845)527-8671	
Festival Publicity:	Joyce Hanson	(914)907-4928	joycehanson@mac.com
Finance:	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
Grants & Dev.	James Malchow	908)405-1433	jpmalchow@gmail.com
Harbor Membership			
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Harbor Communications	Jeremy Baum	(914)213-5353	jeremybaum@jeremybaum.com
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	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
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Monthly Music:	Ken Miller	(201)376-1316	powwow187@aol.com
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Newsletter:	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
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	James Brown		empulsetech@gmail.com
Woody Sailors	James Malchow	(908)405-1433	jpmalchow@gmail.com
Woody Maintenance:	Steve Schwartz	(845)462-7756	sloopcapt@aol.com
	Max Smith	(484)336-6569	
Woody Scheduling:	Susan Berliner	(845)527-8671	

Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting

Minutes, February 2, recorded by Trish Murphy

Opening Music: "The Groundhog Song" performed by Ken Miller, Rob May, Lydia Adams Davis, and Mary Poppins

President Rob May called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. He began the meeting by asking members if anyone would volunteer to take out the recyclables. Gail was kind enough to offer her assistance. A sheet was then passed around for members wishing to volunteer to become the next "Multrum Heroes". Donations of firewood were then asked for by anybody able to provide such in order to warm the Sloop Club building. Members were then informed that if they had firewood available for donation but could not deliver it, a representative from the Sloop Club could arrive at the location of the wood to pick it up. With no new members to introduce themselves, the meeting moved forward.

Treasurer's Report

Aaron Verdile gave a detailed accounting of income and expenses for the month of December (Please refer to treasurer's report for complete information and accounting). Aaron asked listeners if they had any thoughts or questions. With the response being that they didn't, the financial reporting was concluded.

MLK Parade Report

Matt Bowen opened the report by announcing that the MLK parade and writing contest were both met with positive success this year. Matt spoke of the activist guest speakers who lectured at the parade. The MLK writing contest received twenty-three submissions, from which six winners had to be chosen. For the tenth year in a row, Rhinebeck bank donated three-hundred dollars to distribute among the six winners. The prizes have all been delivered to the contestant winners. Matt then brought forth recognition to Konstantin, for creatively crafting and arranging excerpts from the essays of contestants. The latter work is published in the Highland Current for public view. The MLK parade and writing contest was revealed to be a tribute to the spirit and passion of Pete Seeger due to the fact it was something he was passionate about and also an obvious tribute to the history and legacy of Doctor Reverend Martin Luther King Junior. It was revealed that the mother of one of the contestant winners donated one hundred American flags during the parade. Mary Poppins stated that she was very pleased with the newspaper coverage that appeared in the Beacon Free Press, Highland Current, and Hudson Valley Press. Mary Poppins informed listeners that she had newspapers with her containing the coverage for any listener who desired one.

Winter Lecture Series

Alan Thomas began by first giving thanks to members who volunteered their time to clean up the club house. He stated that the competitive rowing lecture was quite successful based on the number of individuals who attended. It was announced that the book titled "Boys in the Boat" was available to members in return for a donation of any size. The book depicts the engaging true story of the University of Washington team that participated in the 1936 U.S. Olympics. The rowing lecture was said to have drawn fifty-four participants.

On February 15th, renowned geologist Kirsten Menking, Ph.D. is scheduled to give a lecture on climate change. John Mylod will present a lecture in March on the history of fishing.

Woody Report/ Harbor Report

Captained Steve opened his report by informing listeners that he had checked on the condition of the Woody the previous Sunday. Items related to the boat had been safely transported to the Settlement Camp for secure storage. Captain Steve concluded by stating that the boat remains in "great shape" and currently remains docked at the same location.

Building Committee

Rosemary Thomas urged eligible members to come forward and volunteer to form a building committee. A sign-up sheet for members wishing to join the newly forming committee was passed around. The work needed on the clubhouse to upgrade and maintain the windows, children's area, and other parts of the building was brought to attention. The possibility of achieving a grant to cover the cost of maintenance at a future date was discussed. Alan brought up the issue of unskilled volunteers also being needed to move objects in the building around so that the interior of the clubhouse could be given a fresh coat of paint.

Clearwater Report

Three webinars will be provided to the public this month. On Tuesday February 22nd from six to seven p.m. Dr. Stuart Findlay will speak about facts pertaining to the environmental issue invasive species descending the pathway of the Mohawk region. On Saturday the tenth, an open boat event is scheduled to take place in Kingston from four to seven. The issue of the boat needing a new jib, which is the sail located at the front of the boat, was brought to attention. On Monday the twenty-sixth Jen Benson is scheduled to speak.

General Announcements

John McLaughlin from River Pool informed listeners that Governor Hochul included the N.Y. Swim Initiative in the budget. The existing River Pool was revealed to be an early innovative concept of floating pools. The swim pool is fondly nicknamed "Pete's Pool" after the late iconic Pete Seeger. Part of the coming funding is to include such things as a trained lifeguard and public swim education. The last Cross River Swim was stated to have been comprised of one-hundred and eighty-three swimmers, ninety kayakers, and approximately three hundred total people in or on the river. This year's Cross River Swim is scheduled to be held on the twenty-seventh of July with a pending rain date of the twenty-eighth. Mary Arnold invited members to attend an event that is to occur on Sunday March third at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie.

Adjournment

Rob May motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bonnie Champion. Rob May adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Circle of Song followed.

Environmental News

The Beacon Sloop Clubs joined other environmental organizations and elected officials in signing a letter to Governor Hochul opposing the proposed Iroquois Pipeline Expansion by Compressors Project. The text of the letter is available [Here](#).



We want to thank Professor Kirsten Menking, Director of Environmental Studies on the Althea Ward Clark Chair at Vassar College for braving the cold to deliver our February lecture, *Playing in the Mud, How Earth Scientists Learn About Climate Change*.

Dr. Menking reviewed the physical evidence of the retreat of the glaciers at the end of the last ice age, from their maximum extent near what today is Long Island, approximately 25,000 years ago. Among the features left behind are debris, such as moraines and kame, but also kettle lakes.

As the ice melted, those lakes, formed a record of the local conditions and climate by trapping wind-blown pollen, charcoal, and sediment at their bottoms. By taking core samples through the sediment, geologists and climate scientists can learn much about the recovery evolution of the landscape as the ice retreated.

Cold weather species such as white spruce began to appear about 11,000 years ago, giving way to hemlock and oak by 7000 years ago. By correlating to the condition under which these species thrive today, the climate can be deduced. The time scale was determined by Carbon-14 dating of organic material in the sediments.

The occurrence of droughts, forest fires, and can also be seen in the presence of charcoal, macrofossils and aquatic vegetation.

By applying these methods across a wide geographic area, scientists can map the migration of species as the climate warms.

Thank you again to Dr. Menking and all who came out and asked insightful questions.

Winter Lecture Series - March



Commercial Fishing on the Hudson River w/ John Mylod

Thursday Mar. 21st at 7:00 pm
Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon, NY.

Join John Mylod and learn about the natural history of shad, herring, sturgeon, blue crabs, and the history of the Hudson River fishery.

Albany was once known as ‘Sturgeontown’ due to the large amounts of ‘Albany Beef’ caught in the Hudson River. Shad nets and fishing weirs were once a sign of spring all along the river. At the time of the first European’s arrival the river was teeming with fish, sustaining a native population with its bounty.

In the 18th and 19th century commercial fishing provided employment to a large number of fishermen both on the New York and New Jersey sides of the Hudson River.

In the 20th century fish populations declined due to pollution and overfishing, much of it offshore, and commercial fishing all but disappeared.



John Mylod, one of the last commercial fishermen on the Hudson River, served 15 years as the executive director of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. He is a writer and environmentalist. An expert on all things related to the Hudson River, John often consults on films focusing on the river and serves as an expert resource for media

outlets including radio and print press. He currently sits on the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee.

The Beacon Sloop Club, inc. 'December 2023

	Total
Income	
Contribution, Gifts, Grants	5,673.05
Food Pantry donation	1,077.00
Woody maintanice fund	894.53
Total Contribution, Gifts, Grants	\$7,644.58
Interest	100.90
Interest-Money Market	4.53
Total Investment Income	\$105.43
Membership	
Paypal	1,477.56
Snailmail	680.00
Total Membership	\$2,157.56
Total Income	\$9,907.57
Gross Profit	\$9,907.57
Expenses	
Bank Expense	
Paypal	73.16
Total Bank Expense	\$73.16
Corn Expense	260.08
Park Fee	375.00
Police	858.00
Total Corn Expense	\$1,493.08
Facilities	
Utilities	111.00
Total Facilities	\$111.00
Other Expenses	
Donation	
Food Pantry	1,080.00
Total Donation	\$1,080.00
Website	34.31
Total Other Expenses	\$1,114.31
Printing, etc.	
Broadside	69.47
Total Printing, etc.	\$69.47
Pumpkin Expense	
Park Fee	375.00
Police	941.00
Total Pumpkin Expense	\$1,316.00
Special Events Expenses	84.76
Special Events Facilities	
Solar Trailer	237.52
Total Special Events Facilities	\$237.52
Total Special Events Expenses	\$322.28
Strawberry Expense	
Park Fee	375.00
Police	774.00
Total Strawberry Expense	\$1,149.00
Total Expenses	\$5,648.30
Net Operating Income	\$4,259.27
Net Income	\$4,259.27
Opening Cash Balance 12/1/2023	\$119,782.50
Closing Cash Balance 12/31/2023	\$124,041.77
Change in Investment Value	822.42
Total Balance 12/31/2023	\$124,864.19
Unrestricted & soft	\$94,553.34
Hard Restricted (total)*	\$30,310.85
B & S Rozinsky Fund (hard)	\$22,566.65
Board designated funds (soft)	\$15,723.21



HUDSON RIVER SLOOP CLEARWATER'S SPIRIT OF THE HUDSON GALA

Sunday April 7, 2024, 3:00-7:00 pm @ The Garrison

Honoring Dr. Stuart Findlay, Manna Jo Greene, and Xiell Owens

Save the Date: Saturday May 4



Reserve Your Seats
[BUY TICKETS](#)
 Browse, Bid & Buy
[VIEW ITEMS](#)
 Not Attending?
 You can still participate in the auction!
[REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE](#)

Current Calendar

BSC Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 pm
At the clubhouse

Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting

Friday, March 1, 6:30 – 10:00pm
At the clubhouse

Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse

Alice Howe and Freebo

Saturday, March 9, 2024, 6:30 pm
Community Unitarian Universalist
Congregation 468 Rosedale Ave
White Plains, NY 10605

Winter Lecture Series: The Hudson River Fishery w/ John Mylod

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm
At the Clubhouse



HUDSON RIVER SLOOP CLEARWATER'S SPIRIT OF THE HUDSON GALA

Sunday April 7, 2024, 3:00-7:00 pm @ The Garrison

Honoring Dr. Stuart Findlay, Manna Jo Greene,
and Xiell Owens

The Beacon Sloop Club Sailing Class

When: April 17 – June 5
(8 classes meeting on Wednesday night)
Where: The Beacon Sloop Club
Time: 7pm – 9pm
Registration will open soon

13th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep

Saturday, May 4,
Stay tuned for more details, times, special
events, etc.



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.

**CLEARWATER WINTER
VIRTUAL LEARNING SERIES**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
6-7PM
Highway to the Hudson: The New York State Canal System and the Spread of Invasive Species into the Hudson River
Speaker: *Dr. Stuart Findlay, Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
6-7PM
Who, Where, and How Much?: Understanding the Hudson River PCB Fish Consumption Advisories
Speaker: *Jen Benson, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater*

[Register Here](#)

TOM CHAPIN & FRIENDS BIRTHDAY CONCERT

March 9, 2024

8:00 pm

Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon Ny

Membership

For many people January is renewal time. Email subscribers received a note earlier this month with their renewal date.

We are an all-volunteer organization, and your support is what it is all about.

[Renew online](#)

[Download Form](#)

[Please consider joining Clearwater as well.](#)

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

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