



Serving the Hudson River with Pride for 55 Years

A Message from Our President

It was cold, dark, and quiet outside in Beacon on December 9th. But inside the Beacon Sloop Club, it was warm, bright, colorful, and cheerful. Aaron Verdile and Trish Murphy spent the day beautifully decorating the clubhouse for the annual Beacon Sloop Club Holiday Sing. The celebration was joyful, filled with good music, and delicious food. Many thanks to all those who organized and attended the celebration. We reserve a special "thank you" for Joyce Hanson, who spearheaded the Common Ground Food Donation Program fundraiser at the event, raising over \$1,000 to distribute nutritional food to those who may be in need during this holiday season.

It seems appropriate at this juncture to take stock of the past year and look forward to the new one. By all measures, 2023 was a success. Membership has returned to pre-pandemic levels. Many newer members have infused the Club with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and originality, while our veterans provide stability, experience, wisdom, and dedication. The BSC sailing classes were at peak capacity and our public sailing program was as popular as ever. We produced three lively, memorable, and well-attended festivals.

Our finances are stable, thanks to Treasurer Aaron Verdile and the Finance Committee. Due to the efforts of Alan Thomas and James Malchow, the Club received two generous grants, intended to help us in our mission to preserve the Hudson River. Our Winter Lecture Series brought us entertaining and enlightening programs last winter. Exciting lecturers have been scheduled for this year by our Winter Lecture Series coordinators, Alan Thomas, and Steve van der Merwe.

Joining with other environmental groups, we led the way to significant environmental victories in 2023. Most notably, we helped persuade state lawmakers to codify a law protecting the Hudson from the discharge of radioactive waste. Additionally, we assisted in guiding

the Beacon City Council into passing the All-Electric Buildings Act, requiring new buildings to feature clean energy sources. Also, we have redoubled efforts to make club activities more environmentally sustainable, decreasing the amount of waste at our general meetings, and reducing the environmental footprint of our festivals.

However, many challenges await us in the new year. Proposals to expand the pipeline under the Hudson, near Indian Point, have surfaced. Concerns persist that oil tankers may be permanently anchored along the river. Toxins such as PCB and PFAS continue to poison our river, while cleanup efforts are still unfinished. Indian Point decommissioning remains controversial. Locally, there are indications that the City of Beacon is looking into ways to reduce their composting and recycling services.

But we are prepared. We welcome the challenges and opportunities that 2024 brings.

Rob

Inside this issue:

Marching in remembrance and hope, still can't eat the fish, rowing, upcoming events, and much, more....



NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING Wednesday January 24, 7:00 p.m. Zoom
NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, February 2, 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

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Building: | Vince Farina | (845)656 9546 | intraining_99@yahoo.com |
| Community Sailing: | Vanessa Nisperos | | vanessa.nisperos@gmail.com |
| Environment: | Tom LaBarr | (845)831-4267 | labarrt@gmail.com |
| Environmental Tent: | Tom Elliott | (518) 265-6676 | tomelliott789@gmail.com |
| | 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 | | | |
| Mooring Manager: | Ben Fiege | (845)764-5884 | fiege.benjamin@gmail.com |
| Harbor Communications | Jeremy Baum | (914)213-5353 | jeremybaum@jeremybaum.com |
| Lecture Series | Steve van der Merwe | (914)879-1082 | vandermerwede@yahoo.com |
| | Alan Thomas | (845)463-4660 | acthoma@yahoo.com |
| Membership: | Alan Thomas | (845)463-4660 | acthoma@yahoo.com |
| MLK Day | Matt Bowen | (845)522-0780 | mattbowen@gmail.com |
| Monthly Music: | Ken Miller | (201)376-1316 | powwow187@aol.com |
| Musical Outreach: | Ken Miller | (201)376-1316 | powwow187@aol.com |
| Newsletter: | Alan Thomas | (845)463-4660 | acthoma@yahoo.com |
| Town Liaison | Tom LaBarr | (845)831-4267 | labarrt@gmail.com |
| Vendor Coordinator: | Joyce Hanson | (845)293-3621 | vendors@beaconsloopclub.org |
| Web Site: | Metal | (646) 481-6360 | metal@stationbuilt.com |
| | 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, January 5, recorded by Trish Murphy

Opening Music: Rob May performed the classic song "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie.

President Rob May called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He opened the meeting with a cheerful Happy Birthday song to Rosemary.

Guest Speaker: The Environmental Action Director of Clearwater, Jen Benson, gave valuable information about the Hudson River PCB superfund site. She stated that reviews of the site are done every five years and the third review will be held this year. The review will include such things as the success of dredging, for example. The goal of the program is to ultimately make the consumption of fish from the river safe. Other priorities include the decommissioning process of Indian Point. The harmful implications of invasive species in the Hudson were also explored. The possible redesignation of Hudson River anchorages was discussed next. The formation of The Stewart Air National Guard Restoration Advisory Committee and their efforts to remove pollutants from the water was brought to the attention of listeners. She advised members that due to PCB's pregnant women and children should not consume the contaminated fish and should not consume more than six crabs weekly from the Hudson River.

Treasurer's Report: Aaron Verdile presented the income and expenses for November. Please refer to the treasurer's report for complete information. The budget review was followed by a budget proposal. The budget was unanimously voted in and the motion to pass the budget was approved.

Winter Lecture Series: Alan Thomas announced that as part of the winter lecture series, Bill Davies would come to speak about the history of competitive rowing. A professor of geology will also come at a separate future date to lecture on climate change. On March 21, the former Executive Director of Clearwater, John Mylod, will speak about the history of Hudson Valley fisheries. The speaker for April will be determined at a later date.

Woody Report: James Stated that the Woody is currently tarped over and safely secured for winter storage and remains in good working order. Spring maintenance is set to begin either in February or March. Possible future work parties will be arranged at a later date. Winter maintenance volunteers are needed.

Harbor Report: The harbor remains safely secured and stored for the winter.

MLK March: Matt Bowen stated that the Martin Luther King March would be held on Monday January 15 at 9:30 a.m., starting in front of the Springfield Baptist Church. The gathering at the church is set to begin at 8:30 a.m. and the ceremony in the church will commence at 8:45 a.m. He stated that the parade was extended by two blocks this year. At 11:30 a.m. there will be a ceremony following the parade which includes various activities and engaging speakers. Matt informed listeners that copies of the songs to be sung at the event are available upon request. The talk concluded with thanks being given to Matt Bowen and Bonnie Champion.

Environmental Report: Captain Tom explored the repercussions of using drier sheets and Tide Pods in terms of the plastic contained in the latter items being released into the environment in the form of harmful pollutants. He encouraged listeners to use powdered detergent or Borax be used in lieu of other products that contain plastics. The relation of the oil industry to plastic waste was also discussed. Captain Tom concluded by providing interesting facts about the negative implications of disposable plastic packaging.

General Announcements: Captain Tom stated that any members wishing to visit Fran, a Sloop Club member recovering from a medical condition at a facility in Mohegan Lake, should contact him. Members are encouraged to visit Fran. It was then stated that the opening swim date for the riverpool is currently July 27. Listeners learned that the N.Y. Swim Initiative was confirmed and as a result Governor Hochul's executive planning director had inquired about the riverpool and discussed the allocation of funds to such. It was learned that Scenic Hudson voted not to approve a site for the designation of an area for an adult pool. The announcements were wrapped up with the availability of the resource library in the clubhouse being brought to attention. It was revealed three new books had been donated to the library and were available for use.

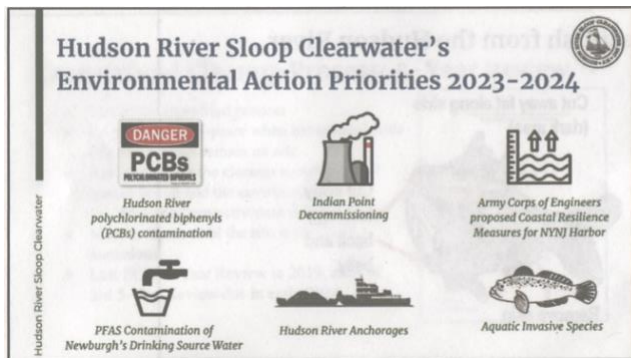
Adjournment: Rob May made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded. Rob May adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The meeting was followed by a Circle of Song.

Clearwater Volunteer Day

It's not too late to sign up for our Winter Volunteer Day! This year, this will take place on Friday, January 26th from 10am-4pm! Spend a day at the barn in Kingston, NY helping the Captain and Winter Crew get the boat in tip top shape for next season! Sign up [here!](#)



Environmental News



Clearwater Environmental Action director, Jen Benson was a guest speaker at the January membership meeting, reviewing Clearwater’s priorities for the upcoming year and updating us on the latest fish advisories.

Many, especially underserved populations, in the Hudson Valley rely on fish from the Hudson River as a supplemental food source. Sadly, after eight years of remediation and additional recovery time, stringent advisories limiting consumption remain in effect.

The EPA is due to issue its 5-Year Review and make a protectiveness determination this year. Public involvement will help ensure a lasting solution. Renewing your Clearwater membership and joining the email list are great ways to stay informed.

THE BIGGER, BETTER, BOTTLE BILL

State Senate Bill number 237-B, introduced by senator May, et. al., and assembly bill number 6353, introduced by assemblyman Glick, et. al. proposes to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to returnable bottles. It would expand and modernize of the state’s Bottle Bill by adding wine, liquor, distilled spirit coolers, and cider and wine products to the definition of "beverage", increasing the container deposit from five cents to ten cents, and providing that beginning April 1, 2025, the handling fee will be six cents for each beverage container accepted by a deposit initiator from a dealer or operator of a redemption center.

The New York Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act

Senate Bill 4246-a (Harckham) and Assembly Bill 5322-a (Glick) aims to reduce packaging by 50% gradually over the next twelve years. Most consumer products companies would be required to reduce single-use plastic packaging or redesign packaging to be refillable.

The bill targets reducing the impact on environmental justice communities where packaging is produced, landfilled, or incinerated.

The bill prohibits PFAS, vinyl chloride, lead, mercury, formaldehyde, bisphenols, and other carcinogenic, endocrine disrupting, or otherwise harmful chemicals to be used in food packaging.

Martin Luther King Day Singing Parade

Songs of freedom rang out in Beacon as we celebrated the birth of Martin Luther King and the principles he stood for. It is so important that the meaning and the dream behind the holiday be kept alive.



A Brief History of Rowing on the Hudson



We were honored to have Bill Davies from the Hudson River Rowing Association kickoff the Winter Lecture Series to a full house. We were a bit worried with the temperature dipping below 20 degrees and two floods in the week before, but a great topic and publicity brought out the crowd.

By now most folks know something about *The Boys in The Boat*, and their quest to beat the Nazi's in the 1936 Olympics. Fewer realize that the trials were held on the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie.

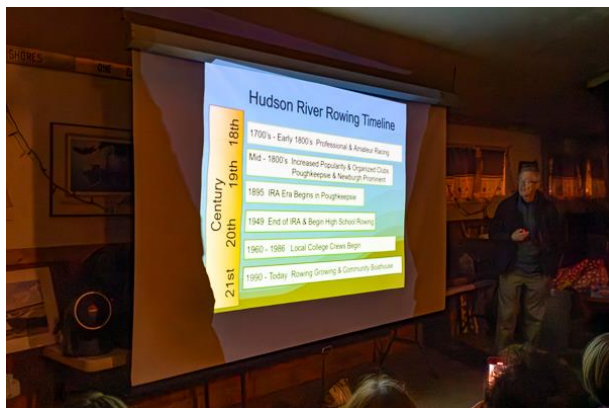
We learned that competitive rowing began on the Hudson in the 1700's, with many stars of the sport hailing from Newburgh or Poughkeepsie. By 1895 the collegiate championship regatta was taking place on the Hudson due to its long straight course and viewing opportunities.

At their peak the regattas brought tens of thousands of people to the riverside. They were the revivals of their day. The HRRRA has been bringing competitive rowing back to the area at the club, high school, and college levels.

Thank you to Bill for his time and enthusiasm. Also, a special thank you to John Greener, Jim Finnigan, Konstantin Doren, Rob May and Rosemary Thomas for the extra effort getting the clubhouse ready after the flooding.

For those unable to make it, the slides are available.

[Here.](#)



RIVERKEEPER SWEEP

An Earth Day (or thereabouts based on the calendar and tides) riverfront cleanup has been a Beacon Sloop Club tradition for more than 50 years. This year we will again partner with Riverkeeper.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, and join us for the 13th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep, a day of service for the Hudson.

Stay tuned for more details, times, special events, etc.



Winter Open Boat (Kingston, NY) Feb 10 @ 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Join Clearwater for our Winter Open Boat and visit the historic Sloop Clearwater as it undergoes maintenance in preparation for our 55th sailing season!

This is a FREE EVENT so come down with the whole family to enjoy an evening of live music, boat tours, and children's activities!

When: Saturday, February 10th, 4pm-7pm

Where: The Gray Barn at the Hudson River Maritime Museum, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401

*If you can, please bring a potluck dish or snack to share with everyone and your own plates and utensils to reduce waste. And be sure to dress warmly!

Winter Lecture Series - February



Livingston corer

**How Earth Scientists Learn About Climate Change
w/ Kirsten Menking, Ph.D.,
Thursday Feb. 15th at 7:00 pm
Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon, NY.**

Join us as Dr. Menking discusses the use of sediment cores from Lakes Minnewaska and Mohonk to reconstruct the climate history of the Shawangunk Ridge. Kirsten Menking and her students at Vassar College took sediment cores from the bottom of Lakes Minnewaska and Mohonk and analyzed them to reconstruct the climate history of the Shawangunk Ridge over the past 15,000 or so years. Using pollen, plant fossils, charcoal content and other indicators, they determined what the landscape must have looked like at the time of the mastodons and also uncovered a nearly two millennia drought that occurred several thousand years ago.

Kirsten Menking, Professor of Earth Science and Director of Environmental Studies on the Althea Ward Clark Chair at Vassar College, conducts research on past climate change, on landscape evolution due to climatic and tectonic processes, and on the impacts of urbanization on streams. Recently she has worked on the climate record contained within Lake Estancia in central New Mexico and on the late glacial and Holocene history of southeastern New York. The latter work has taken her to lakes in the Shawangunk Mts. and to Lozier Pond, a small lake from

Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse

**The Slambovian Circus of Dreams-Unplugged
Saturday, February 10, 6:30 pm**

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation 468
Rosedale Ave, White Plains, NY 10605

A rootsy rockin' psychedelica, The Slambovian Circus of Dreams have been expanding the borders of the Americana genre with their fantastic stories and performance since the late 90's in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Their connection with audiences at shows taps into a greater human-ness and captivates with charismatic band leader Joziah Longo centering presiding.

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 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

The Beacon Sloop Club, inc.
Profit and Loss
 November 2023

| | <u>Total</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| Income | |
| Contribution, Gifts, Grants | 5,565.01 |
| Food Pantry donation | 20.00 |
| Total Contribution, Gifts, Grants | \$5,585.01 |
| Investment Income | 22.63 |
| Interest-Checking | 73.48 |
| Interest-Money Market | 5.02 |
| Total Investment Income | \$101.13 |
| Membership | |
| Paypal | 75.00 |
| Snailmail | 175.00 |
| Total Membership | \$250.00 |
| Total Income | \$5,936.14 |
| Gross Profit | \$5,936.14 |
| Expenses | |
| Bank Expense | |
| Paypal | 2.48 |
| Total Bank Expense | \$2.48 |
| Facilities | |
| Building | 36.00 |
| Utilities | 37.72 |
| Woody Maintenance | 1,314.68 |
| Total Facilities | \$1,388.40 |
| Other Expenses | |
| Website | 28.17 |
| Total Other Expenses | \$28.17 |
| Pumpkin Expense | |
| Pies | 257.00 |
| Sanitation | 400.00 |
| Total Pumpkin Expense | \$657.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,076.05 |
| Net Operating Income | \$3,860.09 |
| Net Income | \$3,860.09 |
| | |
| Opening Cash Balance 11/1/2023 | \$114,557.06 |
| Closing Cash Balance 11/30/2023 | \$118,417.15 |
| Change in Investment Value | 1,365.35 |
| Total Balance 11/30/2023 | \$119,782.50 |
| | |
| Unrestricted & soft | \$91,185.60 |
| Hard Restricted (total)* | \$28,596.90 |
| B & S Rozinsky Fund (hard) | \$21,744.23 |
| 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

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, January 24, 7:00 pm

[Virtual](#)

Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting

Friday, February 2, 6:30 – 10:00pm

At the clubhouse

Clearwater Volunteer Day

Friday, January 26, 10:00 am

50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY

[Register](#)

Clearwater Open Boat

Saturday, February 10, 4:00 pm

50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY

[Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse](#)

The Slambovian Circus of Dreams

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 6:30 pm

Community Unitarian Universalist

Congregation 468 Rosedale Ave

White Plains, NY 10605

Winter Lecture Series:

How Earth Scientists Learn About Climate Change, w/ Kirsten Menking, Ph.D.

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm

At the Clubhouse

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



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.

13th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep

Saturday, May 4,

Stay tuned for more details, times, special events, etc.



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