



The Compass

March 2019

Newsletter of North River Friends of Clearwater

NEXT MEETING, MARCH 6

The next **NRFC** meeting will be held on March 6th at Stephen Smith's office, LaBella PC (previously Novus Engineering), 25 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY. Potluck will be at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Greg Williams, the Executive Director of Clearwater, will attend this meeting. It would be great if as many members as possible would show up to welcome Greg and hear the latest news regarding Clearwater. Greg is a great guy and an interesting speaker. Let's give him a big welcome! —ss

2019 NRFC CALENDAR OMISSIONS

Nancy pointed out that I had omitted two lines from the Calendar when I copied Vicki's Annual Meeting Minutes—formatting got me again:

JULY: The meeting date is the 3rd, noting that Independence Day occurs the next day.

The Camp and Paddle is scheduled for the weekend of the 19th.

AUGUST: The meeting will be on the 7th.

The Camp and Paddle will be the 9-11th, moving to the following weekend if that doesn't work out.

NOTE THAT CLEARWATER WILL PROBABLY BE IN OUR AREA AUG. TO SEPT. —st

GREG WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greg spent his childhood sailing on the Hudson, swimming in the Croton River, and going to Clearwater Revival on Croton Point. After preparing for public service with a B.A. in Government from Dartmouth College, Greg spent three years helping whistleblowers and researching waste, fraud and abuse in federal spending. After returning to graduate school to study organizational behavior, Greg has spent twenty-five years helping organizations of all sizes build strong cultures, and overcome challenges. When not working, Greg may be on the water, in the kitchen, or reading a Government Accountability Office report.

—www.clearwater.org

GREEN MARKET TABLING MARCH 17th

NRFC will be tabling at Green Market at Proctor's in Schenectady on Sunday, March 17, 10:00AM-2:00PM. We will promote the April 7th fundraiser at The Linda and **Clearwater** Revival at Croton in June. Stephen will provide publicity and flyers about upcoming events. A minimum of four people will be needed: two to set up and two to take down, with some overlap.

—np

STEPHEN'S INTERVIEW ON "CLIMATE MATTERS"

Stephen was interviewed by **NRFC** member Peter Savio at 3:30 PM, February 7th, 2019, on the "Climate Matters" show on WOOC in Troy, 105.3. You can listen to the interview at <https://soundcloud.com/mediasanctuary/climate-matters-steven-smith-clearwater>

Stephen was also interviewed on January 27th in Poughkeepsie by Tom Sipos' show "Hudson River Focus Live," on WKIP (1450/1370). —ss/vk

NRFC CALENDAR

- 3/3 **Clearwater's** Open Boat, 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY, 2:00-5:00.
- 3/6 **NRFC** Monthly Meeting, 25 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY, Potluck 6:30, Meeting 7:00. **Guest speaker: Greg Williams, Clearwater Executive Director.** (See article page 1.)
- 3/17 **NRFC** Tabling, Green Market, Proctor's, Schenectady, NY, 10:00-2:00.
- 4/3 **NRFC** Monthly Meeting, Location TBD, Potluck 6:30, Meeting 7:00.
- 4/7 **NRFC/Clearwater** Fundraiser, The Linda, Albany, NY.
- 4/27 Canal CleanSweep, Lock 7, 11:00-2:00.

The Compass Deadline

The deadline for submitting material for the April 2019 edition of The Compass is March 18th. E-mail items to nrfc_compass@yahoo.com, or mail to Sue Thrasher, 1 Aaron Dr. #4, Coxsackie, NY 12051.

CLEARWATER'S LAST OPEN BOAT

A Free Family-Friendly Potluck with Music, Educational Activities, and Deck Tours.

Sunday, March 3rd, 2:00-5:00 PM

Share food, songs, and friendship!



NRFC OFFICERS

President	Dan Kelsey	518-479-9113
V. President	Stephen Smith	518-225-5499
Treasurer	Lydia Kosinski	518-527-2200
Secretary	Vicki Kelsey	518-872-0663
Membership	Jas Yolles	518-462-6873
Merchandise	Barbara Kuban	518-852-1716
Newsletter	Sue Thrasher	518-731-7320

nrfc_compass@yahoo.com

◀ Membership Application ▶

Enclosed is my check/money order/cash for membership in North River Friends of Clearwater for the category checked:

☐ Individual (\$15.00/yr.) ☐ Family (\$20.00/yr.) ☐ Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (optional) Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Please mail to: North River Friends of Clearwater, P. O. Box 3842, Albany NY 12203

☐ I would like to know more about Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

LOSE OF A FRIEND BILL SPENCE

Eighth Step

February 8 at 1:07 AM ·

Today we lost Bill Spence, a great light in our folk community both here and way beyond our area. He was a musician, sound tech, musicologist and photographer for starters, and handled these and many more roles with extraordinary competence and great good humor. (Little known fact: it was Bill who named Sloop Clearwater.) Such a wonderful, expansive, fun, funny, talented, irreverent, sweet man! I'll tell you this: his love for his family was one of the most defining and loveliest things about him; second only to that, his love for the folk community, and we've loved him right back. His contributions to the folk world are - huge and lasting. We have been so lucky to have him; as they say, they broke the mold. May peace, love, music, and memories surround you, Andy and Hannah-and the entire Old Songs family that, under Bill & Andy, has enriched us for so many wonderful years. Long may you sing!



[Editor's Note: The above article by Eighth Step and the picture appeared on Facebook. I'm not sure who painted the picture, but it was posted by Nancy Daynard with thanks to Katie A. Jones.]

Newsletter by e-mail

Want to save our \$\$\$? Save a tree? De-clutter your house? Have the newsletter sooner? **Receive interim updates & important info when available?** — Get The Compass on-line by sending **your** e-mail address to Sue Thrasher at nrfc_compass@yahoo.com.

WHY A CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT BOARD?

[This article was submitted through the CWSCC Yahoo Group by Marilyn Elie, a member of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition. She is hopeful that some **NRFC** members will write letters to State Assembly members and State Senators. Also, Marilyn has offered to present a short program at one of our meetings.]

Our country does not have a well-defined policy in regard to where and how to store high level radioactive waste. Bury it in a big hole someday, somewhere is about as far as we have gotten in determining what to do with plutonium, cesium, and a multitude of radioactive daughter products that are part of used fuel rods which are lethal for 240,000 years. Even burying it is problematic as the earth moves over that length of time and the computer estimates for the lifetime of the casks the high level radioactive waste is stored is about 350 years. If we seal it in a national depository it will not be possible to monitor the casks and it will be very easy to forget about them as the centuries pass.

It is much safer and more sensible not to transport high level radio active waste to a national depository but rather to store it above ground on site where it can be budgeted for, safely stored, regularly inspected and transferred to new casks as the original ones fail. Transporting them would mean contaminating other communities and leaving a trail of radioactivity through our cities and neighborhoods over our highways, railways and waterways. Storing casks on site above ground would make them more visible and harder to forget as the years roll by and local governments change.

It is obvious that an onsite storage site must be supervised as part of a regular and ongoing program. Who should do this supervision and how should it be set up to last for such an unthinkable long time?

Currently we have a local volunteer group in Cortlandt, a local Task Force set up by Cortlandt Supervisor, Linda Puglisi which is set to expire when

WHY A COB CONTINUED

the last reactor closes. This Task Force serves at the pleasure of the Governor and can be extended or disbanded by the Governor now or in the future. It does not represent a wide range of stakeholders nor has it dealt with the mechanics of decommissioning in any meaningful way.

What is called for is legislature to establish a permanent Citizens Oversight Board that is charged with coordinating reports and information. Its members would represent a wide range of stakeholders, some elected and some appointed by elected officials. The COB would hold public informational meetings and listen to citizen input. And keep up with any new technological developments in fuel rod storage. It would prepare reports with recommendations for future actions and publish information on the current condition of the casks and how they are being supervised.

There is no good solution to the problem of nuclear waste. We can only store what we have created as safely as possible and stop making more.

HALF MOON LOSING DUTCH HOST PORT: A RETURN TO ALBANY?

Paul Grondahl, Times Union, 2/20/19

The City Council of Hoorn in the Netherlands voted to end its financial support of the Half Moon next year, throwing into doubt the future of the Albany-built replica of a ship explorer Henry Hudson sailed in 1609 up the river that bears his name.

The decision, which is being debated by the Dutch, echoes the lack of financial commitment from politicians in Albany. The past collective shrug locally sent the Half Moon across the Atlantic in 2015. It was secured as cargo on a large ship, unlike when Hudson sailed the 85-foot square-rigged, three-masted wooden vessel across a tempest-tossed ocean with a crew of 15 in search of a northwest trade passage to Asia on behalf of the Dutch East India Company.

In late January by a vote of 20 to 15 the council members of Hoorn—a city of about 73,000 with a strong maritime history north of Amsterdam along

the Zuiderzee—decided not to extend the contract of the Half Moon. The replica ship had been a signature attraction of the city-run Westfries Museum of Dutch history, on loan for the past five years. The council said the ship was too costly to maintain and must leave port when its contract expires on April 1, 2020.

....

“We want the ship to come back and we’re having discussions with various places on the Hudson River who expressed interest,” said Eduard van Breen, a board member of the not-for-profit New Netherland Museum, which owns the Half Moon. “The ship does belong back here in New York. We are doubly cautious for the second chapter because we heard a lot of empty promises in Albany and outright lies from politicians before.”

With estimated annual maintenance of \$400,000 and a costly major overhaul due, van Breen said any offer will have to include a substantial financial commitment. “We patched things together for 25 years without much support from Albany,” van Breen said. “We’ve heard a lot of talk before. The proof will be in the pudding in terms of monetary commitments.”

....

Dr. Andrew Hendricks, a dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon in North Carolina with a keen interest in maritime history, bankrolled the design and construction of the Half Moon, starting in the late-1980s. He continues to be the primary financial backer. He envisioned the Half Moon as the centerpiece of an Albany tourist attraction, a Colonial Dutch village along the Hudson River. Gov. George Pataki expressed interest in the plan in 1999, but those discussions ended after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

After decades of half-hearted offers, failed negotiations, and empty promises by state and local officials in Albany, there was a loud chorus of lament about losing the Half Moon to Hoorn. There followed a familiar too-little, too-late groundswell of pledged support in Albany....Antipathy from officialdom, annual budget shortfalls and lack of a permanent berth made the local mooring unsustainable. . . .