



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

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Clearwater Announces Smaller Community Celebration in Place of The Great Hudson River Revival in 2020

BEACON, NY – Clearwater announced today that they will be hosting a smaller community celebration in 2020 in lieu of their annual music festival, The Great Hudson River Revival. A Clearwater Community Celebration will take place later this year on June 20th and 21st on Clearwater’s traditional Father’s Day Weekend on a smaller portion of Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

Following 2019’s Great Hudson River Revival, an exploratory committee comprised of board members, staff members and long-time Revival volunteers analyzed the feasibility of another Great Hudson River Revival in 2020. Following a thorough review of festival production practices, monies still owed to 2019 vendors, and increasing expenses every year, the Clearwater Board of Directors has determined that the wisest course is to produce a smaller but still significant event in 2020.

“The Great Hudson River Revival was a major success last year, in the sense that thousands of people joined us to celebrate the Hudson River through music, dance, volunteerism, education and activism,” said Clearwater Executive Director Greg Williams. “Due to many factors, including a wet weather forecast and rain on Sunday causing low attendance, the festival suffered a financial loss of approximately \$190k. Since June, we have been working to keep the organization stable, while paying down our debt to festival vendors, and we are grateful for their patience. It would be irresponsible of Clearwater to move forward with replicating another million-dollar Clearwater Festival in 2020 without having addressed the financial loss we incurred in 2019. We expect that these steps, with the public’s ongoing support, will put us in the best position to return with Revival in 2021.”

For many years, The Great Hudson River Revival was Clearwater’s most important annual fundraiser. It has since grown into the country’s oldest music and environmental festival, uniquely spreading environmental awareness, education and activism. In 2019, Clearwater suffered a loss on Revival close to \$190k. For a small nonprofit (which maintains high ethical standards and receives very little corporate sponsorship), absorbing a loss that great is extremely challenging.

“This stark reality may not make it easier for many to accept Revival’s absence this summer,” said Williams, “but we hope that our transparency will give the public some confidence that we keep our mission close at heart; to continue the work that we do year-round on the Hudson, educating and inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.”

Clearwater’s Community Celebration this June will be true to the organization’s roots, within budget, and supportive of the dedicated volunteers and audience who look forward to The Great Hudson River Revival each year. The Community Celebration will be a unique and intimate event for 529 attendees. Attendance will be very limited due to venue space capacity, but will provide a familiar welcoming weekend of unity, action, education, food, music, crafts, and merrymaking.

Details of the Community Celebration will be announced in the coming months.

Clearwater expects to return to a full-scale Great Hudson River Revival in 2021, re-envisioned as a sustainable, less commercial event.

In addition, Clearwater is preparing to undertake another major restoration of the sloop *Clearwater* in the winter of 2020-2021. Next winter's restoration will be the culmination of a five year project that was implemented in 2016. This final phase of restoration is centering on timbers, frames, and planks above the water line. This is new and necessary work, which was not addressed in the major restorations of the past decade. The *Clearwater* will need to spend the majority of the proposed 6-month project out of the water. Working closely with the Coast Guard, *Clearwater* has had a very aggressive maintenance schedule to keep up with US Coast Guard standards and ensure safe operation of the vessel.

Clearwater's award-winning environmental education programs will continue onboard the sloop *Clearwater* this spring, in classrooms and beside the river.

About Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Launched in 1969 by legendary folk singer and activist Pete Seeger, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater has been at the forefront of the environmental movement as champions of the Hudson River. To date, more than half a million people have experienced their first real look at an estuary's ecosystem aboard the sloop Clearwater. Clearwater has become the grassroots model for producing positive changes to protect our planet. For more information, visit www.clearwater.org.