



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

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Sloop *Clearwater* to Undergo Major Overhaul This Winter

KINGSTON, NY — The iconic Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* is preparing for a major overhaul akin to open-heart surgery this winter: lifting out its towering mainmast to inspect and restore the portion of the boat's backbone on which it rests. In the coming month, *Clearwater* will be hauled out of the water in Albany, placed on a barge, and brought to *Clearwater's* Home Port at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston where shipwrights expect to spend six months on the work, costing the organization upwards of \$600,000.

"While we love sailing through the Hudson Valley's beautiful October landscape, this year the sloop will come out of the water early. Starting the overhaul soon will facilitate completing the project earlier next spring and allow *Clearwater* to fulfill more of that season's many sail requests from the region's schools," said Steve Stanne, *Clearwater's* Board President.

This winter's project will include examination and if necessary, repair of the rigging that supports the mast. With the mast and rig off the sloop, the chain plates (iron straps that attach the rig to the hull) will be removed, allowing replacement of underlying wooden planks as required. The sloop's transom will also need new planks and frames.

This overhaul is part of a planned series of extensive maintenance projects conducted roughly every five years to ensure that *Clearwater* remains stout and well able to carry out its environmental education mission for decades to come. To learn more about this winter's work, as well as past projects, [click here](#).

Earlier this month, *Clearwater* announced the launch of the Century Fund, which is a board-directed perpetual fund to support the ongoing and future maintenance of the iconic sloop *Clearwater*. This fund will ensure *Clearwater's* vitality and presence on the river for future generations.

The Century Fund's initial fundraising target of \$600k will cover the cost of *Clearwater's* 2021-2022 winter project, which will focus on the restoration of the sloop's "topsides." Prudence also dictates that *Clearwater* look beyond this coming winter. The Century Fund will provide a steady stream of designated funding into the future.

"One of the things that sets us apart from so many other Hudson Valley and environmental organizations is the historic sloop," said sloop Captain Nick Rogers. "I'm excited about The Century Fund as a perpetual means to keep the sloop sailing the waters of the estuary that need us to continue the work we were built to do."

Donations to support *Clearwater* can be made at www.clearwater.org/donate.

Inaugural gifts to the Clearwater Century Fund campaign will help cover costs of this winter's work, 75% of which will be reimbursed from a grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Following this winter's restoration work, the Century Fund will remain a revolving fund that will provide needed financial stability for the organization.

[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 a champion 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 a grassroots model for producing positive changes to protect the waters of our planet. For more information, visit www.clearwater.org.