



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater

Annual Report

2023

Reflections on 2023

This past year marks my second as Executive Director, and I continue to marvel at the tenacity of the Clearwater team as we continue to build back after the pandemic.

Our onboard and on-land education programs are reaching pre-pandemic levels, and we were proud to offer two of our three signature Youth Empowerment Programs: Queerwater and Young Women at the Helm.

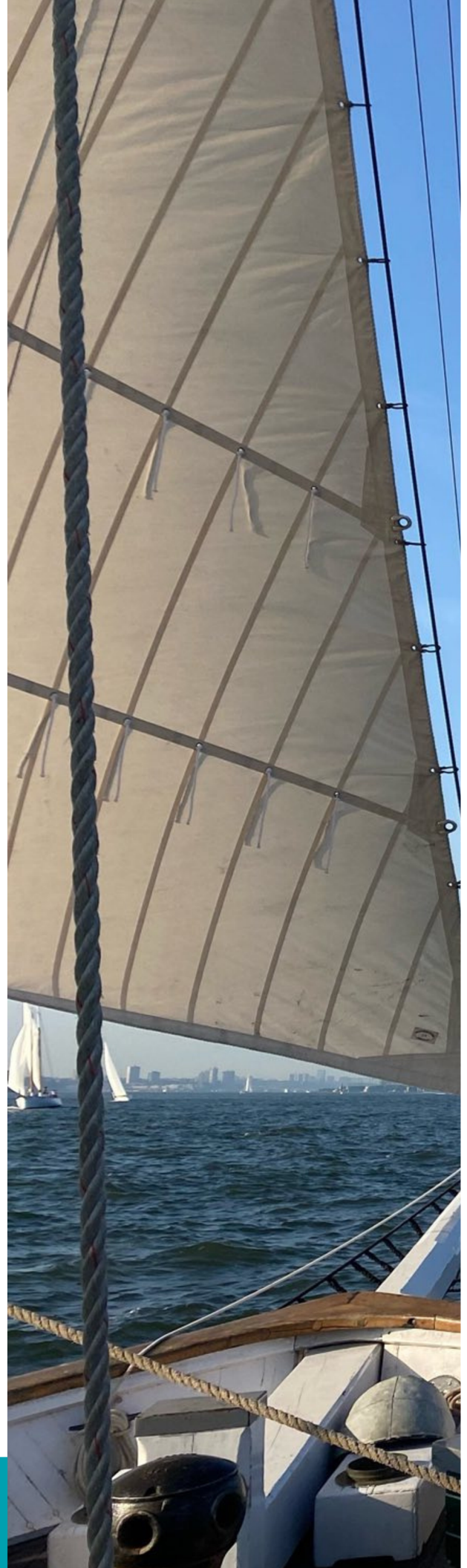
This year also brought a significant transition, as renowned environmental advocate Manna Jo Greene retired after over 20 years as the Director of Environmental Action. Manna's advocacy ranged deep and wide, from fighting against unsafe energy including the closure and safe decommissioning of the Indian Point Energy Center, to facilitating a 5-year Green Cities Initiative, and taking on countless other fights to protect the Hudson River and Hudson Valley communities. In July, we welcomed Jen Benson, a long-time Hudson River advocate as our new Environmental Action Director.

Reflecting back on 2023, I'm proud of all we accomplished this year, and am looking forward to what 2024 has in store.

Fair Winds,



David Toman
Executive Director





Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater

America's Environmental Flagship

Table of Contents

Executive Director’s Letter	1
Mission + History	3
Highlights from 2023	4
Captain’s Corner	5
Education Programs	6-7
Community Events	8
Environmental Action	9
Staff, Crew + Board of Directors	10
Financials	11





Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

America's Environmental Flagship

Mission

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is a member-supported, non-profit serving a mission to protect the Hudson River and steward the next generation of environmental leaders through education, advocacy, sailing, and music.

We own and operate a historic 106' Hudson River Sloop, *Clearwater*, recognized as America's Environmental Flagship. *Clearwater* sails from April to November each year, bringing thousands of students, educators, community members, musicians, and advocates aboard to learn about the river and experience its majesty firsthand.

History

In 1966, in response to the severe industrial pollution plaguing the Hudson, folk singer Pete Seeger and a group of activists decided to "build a boat to save the river." Our founders envisioned a sloop would draw people to the Hudson where they could experience the beauty of the river and be moved to preserve it.

Nearly sixty years later, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is recognized for its award-winning educational programs, growing a powerful grassroots movement of environmental advocates, and giving half a million people the unforgettable opportunity to sail on the Hudson River.

Highlights from 2023

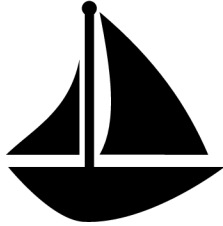


Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater



196

DAY SAILING
SEASON



136

SAILS



4,478

PASSENGERS



60

ON-BOARD
VOLUNTEERS



85

EDUCATION SAILS



2

YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMS



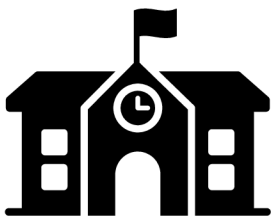
15

EDUCATOR
DECKHAND
TRAINEES



17

DOCKS VISITED



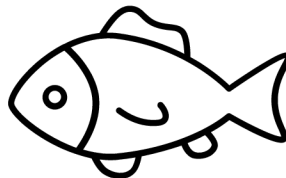
91

SCHOOLS
SERVED



5,451

STUDENTS
ENGAGED



46

TIDELINE
PROGRAMS



1

LAW PREVENTING RADIOACTIVE
DISCHARGE INTO THE HUDSON

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Despite a number of physical challenges, our 2023 season was a success. We were able to start the season on time, hire a full spring crew, and deliver more programming than our previous season.

We also completed a much-needed haulout at the end of the fall, completing the work well and efficiently.

Working with both new and experienced crew and training people in a variety of jobs is always a meaningful part of what we do on the *Clearwater*. A highlight of the 2023 season was being able to train a new captain, Liam Henrie, who signed on to be full-time for the 2024 season.

There was a lot to learn from the 2023 season, but the lessons have been reflected in the strength of the current crew and the resilience of the organization. I look forward to the 2024 season, and hope you will join us out on the river soon.

Fair Winds,
Captain Rory Kane



EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater

SAILING CLASSROOM



Our onboard Sailing Classroom provides students in 4th grade and above the opportunity to learn about the natural and cultural significance of the Hudson River and the power of collective and individual voices.

In addition to hosting school groups, we welcomed aboard organizations including the Tenafly Nature Center and Outdoor Promise for “family style” educational sails where families explored the boat and our learning stations at their pace with the crew and volunteers teaching education stations.

This year we also began Blue Connections, a new program bringing students from the West-of-Hudson watershed and New York City to explore and build the relationships between NYC and the communities in its drinking source watershed.

TIDELINE DISCOVERY



Clearwater's shore-based Tideline Program engages students in pre-kindergarten and above along the river's edge, exploring the lives of Hudson River species, and their role in the riverine ecosystem.

This year, we worked with over 2,000 students, including some schools with decades-long partnerships with Clearwater, and many new groups.

For the first time, we were joined by the Orange-Ulster Boces Newcomers program with participant's first languages varying from Mandarin to Spanish, and Urdu to Ki'che'. All were amazed by the life found in the estuary and learned new English words as well.

A Highland 1st grade teacher reflected: “Once again, the Clearwater team was phenomenal on all three days our students attended this field trip at Esopus Meadows preserve. All of the teachers and chaperones commented on how well-organized and prepared the educators were. Not to mention, they do such a beautiful job bringing everything down to a first-grade level so it is easy for the kids to understand what is being taught and/or worked on. We cannot recommend them and their programs enough. Thank you!!!!”

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Young Women at the Helm | Queerwater

Youth Empowerment Programs are Clearwater's third premiere program, free three-day adventures - Queerwater, and Young Women and Young Men at the Helm for youth 14-18 to connect with the Hudson River and each other as they explore ecology, water quality, sailing, and navigation.

This season we facilitated both Young Women at the Helm and Queerwater after staffing shortages last season necessitated a single abridged program in 2022. Both programs were robustly staffed with volunteers, many of whom were returning Clearwater crew and volunteers. Young Women at the Helm participants camped in Alpine, New Jersey while the Queerwater participants overnighted in Cold Spring. The feedback from participants in both programs was overwhelmingly positive, with many of them returning for public sails later in the season and many expressed a desire to return for future programs or volunteer opportunities:

"I was challenged daily but that's what made me grow. I had to practice things over and over and that was hard but practice makes perfect. I learned so much."

"I loved it. I felt both adequately challenged and supported, and I learned so much about sailing and felt very included in the community."

"My favorite part was when I made friends."

"The food, the Olympics, and camping were great and lifting up the sails and contributing and doing my job were very empowering."

"I'm so tired but in the best way possible. Do not know if I have a specific favorite story but yeah!! Oh feel like I should also mention that the crew are like? The coolest people ever? This place is so welcoming."

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater



Open Boats

Kingston, January/ February

For the first time since the onset of the pandemic, Clearwater held two Open Boats at the Hudson River Maritime Museum Barn -an opportunity for the public to visit the sloop during winter maintenance and enjoy an evening of live music, boat tours, and children's activities.

Clean Water Act (CWA) Symposium

Newburgh, April

In April, Clearwater convened a symposium exploring the progress made since the passage of the CWA, focusing on opportunities and emerging threats to achieving a swimmable, fishable, and drinkable Hudson River.

Music performances at the Kingston Earth Fair

Kingston, May

Clearwater partnered with the City of Kingston to host the Annual Kingston Earth Fair, sponsoring and coordinating two performance stages. The evening prior to the Earth Fair, Clearwater hosted a sunset sail featuring famed Folk/America musicians Reggie Harris and Lara Hope & Matt Golpaugh.

Pumpkin Sails

Brooklyn, Piermont, Poughkeepsie + Hudson, October

We hosted Pumpkin Sails each weekend in October featuring fall-themed dockside activities.



Hike and Learn at Mills Norrie State Park

Staatsburg, November

In the fall we hosted our first Hike and Learn exploring how the restoration of historic bridges could expand present-day Hudson River access. The program featured Jeff Anzevino of Scenic Hudson, and Jon Lawson and Kitty McCullough of Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance, who facilitated our hike to the Hoyt Drive Warren Truss at Mills Norrie State Park.

Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site – Where are we now, what's next, and how you can help

Virtual, November

Following the release of an independent review of EPA's Upper Hudson River PCB Dredging Remedy, Clearwater, Riverkeeper, and Scenic Hudson hosted a virtual update on the Hudson River PCB Superfund cleanup, centering the findings of the coalition's independent scientific review.



INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DECOMMISSIONING



In February 2023, Holtec, the company responsible for decommissioning the facility, informed the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board of plans to release up to one million gallons of treated, but still radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River as soon as August of this year. In April, they moved the release date up to May 4th. Clearwater and our allies raised the alarm, resulting a robust response in the form of municipal and county resolutions, rallies, and petition signatures opposing the releases. In response to the public outcry, Holtec returned to its original proposed release schedule.

This created time for the passage of the Save the Hudson Bill, which prevents the discharge of radiological substances into the Hudson River from a decommissioning nuclear power plant. The bill, championed by Assemblymember Dana Levenberg and Senator Chairman Pete Harckham, passed both houses with bipartisan support and was signed by Governor Hochul in August, stopping the planned releases.

HUDSON RIVER POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL (PCB) CONTAMINATION

As a result of General Electric's release of PCBs into the Hudson (1947-1977), the river remains one of the largest superfund sites in the U.S. PCBs continue to contaminate water, wildlife, and sediment across 200 miles of the Hudson River, and fish consumption advisories remain in place. As part of the Superfund process, EPA must review the cleanup every 5 years, to evaluate if the remedy is protective of human health and the environment. In anticipation of the draft third 5-Year Review, Friends of a Clean Hudson Coalition, of which Clearwater is a founding member, released an independent Review of EPA's Upper Hudson River PCB Dredging Remedy in November, revealing the dredging remedy is failing to protect human and environmental health. Clearwater and Friends of a Clean Hudson have been advocating for a Not Protective Determination in the upcoming Five-Year Review and urging EPA to take action to get the cleanup back on track.

Staff, Crew, and Board of Directors



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater

Staff and Crew

Executive Director

David Toman

Environmental Action

Manna Jo Greene, Director (Retired June 2023)
Jen Benson, Director (Began July 2023)

Marketing & Development

Meg Mayo, Director
Ann Mellor, Membership Manager
Amber Stewart, Communications Coordinator

Operations

Erin Macchiaroli, Director
Caitlin Zinsley, Administrative Sloop Liaison
Anne Crowley, Administrative Associate

Programs

Ruthie Gold, Director
Amali Knobloch, Outreach & Engagement Manager
Eli Schloss, Tideline Director
Ella Agoos, Onboard Program Coordinator
Chloe Grey Smith, Onboard Program Coordinator

Pro-Crew

Rory Kane, Captain
James Parker, First Mate
Lily Kiser-Taylor, Engineer
Noah Chris Bibula, Bosun
Helen Fleming, Deckhand
Colleen Dollard, Cook
Puff Jones, Deckhand
Marija Miklavcic, Deckhand
Smash Flores, Cook
Charlee Heidcamp, Deckhand

Relief Crew

Fredi Guevara-Prip, Relief Mate
Robin Nevin, Relief Mate
Natalie Marshall, Relief Cook
Ken Niles, Relief Mate
Dylan Kane, Cook

Board of Directors

Officers

Steve Stanne, President
Samantha Hicks, Vice-President
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary
Neil Gordon, Treasurer

At Large

Mitzi Elkes
Arthur Jones

Directors

Capt. Sarah Armour
Adenike Bamgboye
Peter Capek
Josh Clyburn
Joan Gaylord
Scott Greathead
Gareth Hougham
Aaron Mair
Jennifer McMillan
Tom Murphy

Henry Neale
Jeremy Rainer
Daniel Riesel
Larry Rothbart
Gabrielle Spielberg
Donna Stein
Sarah Underhill
Thomasina Winslow
Julia Wilson

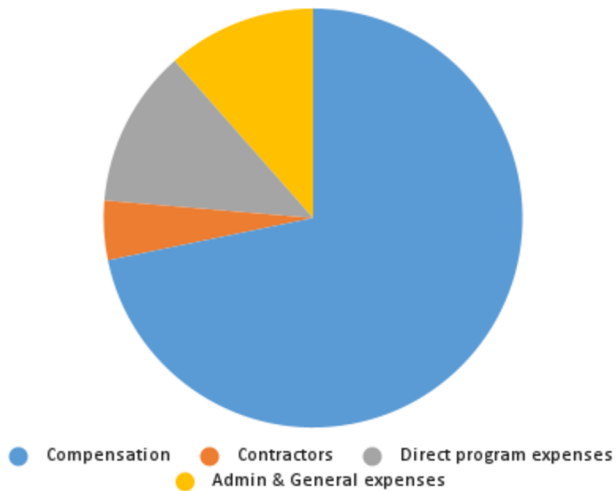


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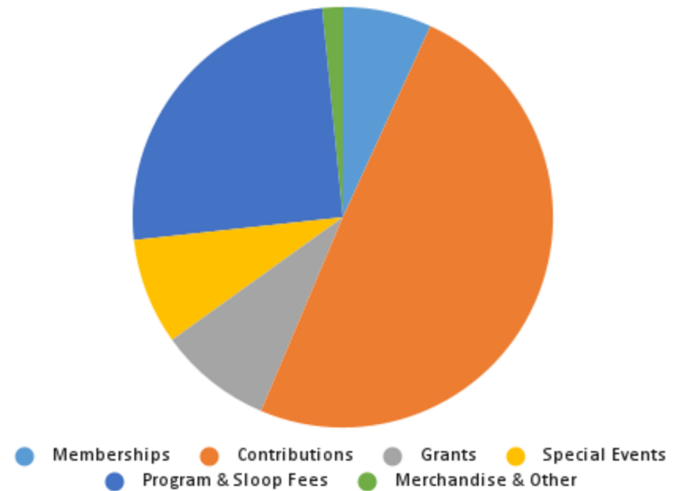
2023 Financials

Financial Overview

FY2023 Expenses by Category



FY 2023 Income by Category



Thank You

We are immensely grateful to all who supported Clearwater in 2023. Our members and donors are the wind in our sails, ensuring we can continue our work to empower communities to protect the Hudson River for generations to come.



*Fostering the next
generation of
environmental leaders.*

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