



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater**
America's Environmental Flagship

Reflections on 2024

As Clearwater's 56th sailing season comes to a close, I am reminded of the thousands of people who stepped aboard this year, and the more than half a million who have sailed with us since our founding. Each season brings its own stories of discovery, learning, and connection, whether it's a student meeting river fish for the first time, or an elder sharing memories of sailing with us decades ago. Together, these moments form the living legacy of this extraordinary vessel and the movement *Clearwater* represents.

In the spring of 2024, we faced one of the most serious financial challenges in Clearwater's history, and the response from our community was immediate and resounding. Our emergency fundraising goal was not only met but exceeded. To ensure a stronger future, we convened a Business Model Task Force consisting of staff, board, and expert volunteers to leverage this challenge into opportunity. Beyond numbers, this process has meant asking hard questions about how we operate, serve, and sustain our organization. The plan will provide a framework to strengthen finances, diversify our programs, and align our resources to serve our mission for decades to come.

Alongside this work of renewal, our programs have flourished. We launched new initiatives like Paddle for Our Hudson, Folk Picnic, and Hike and Learns, bringing together kayakers, hikers, and musicians in community and celebration. Our Youth Empowerment Programs returned in full force, running all three cohorts - Young Women at the Helm, Young Men at the Helm, and Queerwater for the first time since 2019. We also began offering Pay-What-You-Can Sails, expanding sail access to our river communities supported by local businesses and sponsors.

Through it all, what sustains us is community: the countless people who sail with us, volunteer with us, and carry forward the values that Pete Seeger and so many others instilled in this vessel and in our organization. Clearwater's course has never been linear, but with each challenge we face, we find new ways to grow stronger, together.

Together for the river,



David H Toman
Executive Director





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Our 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.

Our 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.



Photo: Gerald M. Brody

Highlights from 2024



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater



214

DAY SAILING
SEASON



150

SAILS



5,233

PASSENGERS



76

ON-BOARD
VOLUNTEERS



70

EDUCATION SAILS



3

YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMS



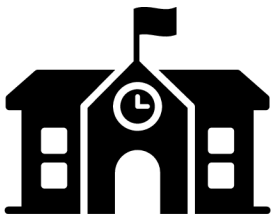
20

EDUCATOR
DECKHAND
TRAINEES



11

DOCKS VISITED



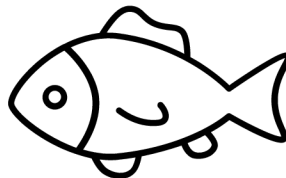
89

SCHOOLS
SERVED



5,393

STUDENTS
ENGAGED



53

TIDELINE
PROGRAMS



4

HIKE AND LEARN
PROGRAMS

Captain's Corner

This fall, *Clearwater* wrapped up her 56th sailing season, and I finished my 12th year on board. Each season has its own story, but 2024 was marked by strong leadership, creative programming, and a deep sense of community both on deck and on the docks. For the first time since 2021, we began the season with two full-time captains - myself and Captain Liam Henrie - two Onboard Program Coordinators, and Mate James Parker who has been working with us through the winter. Nearly all of our leadership were returning to their roles for the second or third year in a row, bringing invaluable stability to the sloop.

One highlight of this season was establishing new docking partnership with PortSide NewYork in Atlantic Basin. Having a home base in Red Hook, Brooklyn opened the door to new communities and gave us a long-sought working waterfront connection in New York City. As a Visiting Vessel at PortSide, we facilitated new programs like Speaker Sails and dockside screenings, which proved both popular and deeply aligned with our mission bringing people to the river through education, music, and dialogue.

The crew's dedication was another bright spot. In the past three years, we've developed both a healthy pool of new and returning crewmembers, and more robust strategies for training and retention. This season, that investment showed even in challenging moments, demonstrating the strength of *Clearwater's* training, the deep sense of camaraderie onboard, and the unique role we play within the tall ships fleet. To see our community of sailors, educators, and advocates grow season after season is one of the most rewarding parts of working on the *Clearwater*.

As always, I'm struck by the dedication of our Clearwater community to keep our sloop river-ready year after year. For six decades, hundreds of volunteers, crew, and shipwrights have worked tirelessly to restore the *Clearwater* and keep the sloop sailing strong. I'm grateful to our crew, our partners, and our community for another memorable season on the Hudson, and I look forward to carrying that momentum into next season.

From the Helm,
Captain Rory Kane



Much of our 2024 crew as captured by Carl Rickard

New Partnerships Take Root in Brooklyn

Clearwater's Visting Vessel residency at PortSide NewYork, Atlantic Basin, Red Hook, Brooklyn

The 2024 season brought many incredible new connections to the Clearwater community. In May and June, we returned to Brooklyn for the first time this season, after securing a new dock at PortSide NewYork, a community-based nonprofit deeply rooted in the historic Red Hook neighborhood. Our partnership with PortSide quickly blossomed into an array of new programming, as we planned our “Brooklyn Residency,” a series of Pay-What-You-Can public sails featuring local waterfront advocates and educators. Speakers from New York State Parks, the RETI Center, and Gowanus Dredgers, as well as guests from PortSide, engaged sold-out audiences in lively discussion.

Summer evenings found dozens of new passengers from around Brooklyn stepping aboard Clearwater from PortSide's tanker Mary A Whalen, decked out in their finest nautical fashions. To celebrate Pride Month, and the Clearwater's long history of LGBTQ+ leadership, we launched a “Queer Waterfront History sail” - and, when it sold out in a record-breaking 4 hours, we added a second “Pride Mixer,” heading up to Chelsea to view the Knickerbocker Sailing Association's Pride Regatta. The mood was buoyant, bright, and festive, with former volunteers and crew mingling with friends, neighbors, and even folks who found the boat via Instagram!

Brooklyn nights found the *Clearwater* crew barbecuing with neighbors on the deck of the Mary Whalen and checking out live music at local venues like Sunny's. Bright June mornings brought donations of food from farmer's markets, thanks to superstar volunteer Jeremy, and waves and photos from curious passengers on the NYC ferry system.



In October, we returned to PortSide and Red Hook, providing education sails to students from around Brooklyn, including a new relationship with the community high school around the corner. We were lucky to experience fall fishing on the Bay Ridge Flats with these students, catching some of the most unusual and astonishing fish who call New York Harbor home, from the Atlantic moonfish to the northern stargazer! With new charters from groups like Penguin Random House, we were able to reach adult audiences as well as youth. The demand for our education programs from working professionals highlights the rich adaptability of the Sailing Classroom. Plus, an innovative new program in partnership with PortSide and the New York Film and Video Council achieved a long-held dream for many crewmembers: screening a film on *Clearwater's* mainsail, accompanied by renowned folk musician Peter Stampfel and his band the Atomic Meta-Pagans who provided live accompaniment to the “Early Abstractions” of famed animator Harry Smith.

Sailing on New York Harbor reminds us that the Hudson Valley and New York City are part of a larger regional community, united by our incredibly diverse estuary ecosystem. From the toadfish living under our piers to the curious, creative and driven New Yorkers who we get to take out on the water, *Clearwater* creates new connections every time we set sail. We are looking forward to another year of energizing partnerships up the river!



Martina Caruso



Education Programs



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. While the Sailing Classroom typically educates classes of students, the program is also run occasionally for community groups.

This year, we hosted the second year of the Blue Connections 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.

We also incorporated and adapted components from the Sailing Classroom program into charter sails for Penguin Random House and the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation.



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 river ecosystem.

This year, we created several customized programs for schools we had longstanding partnerships with, such as a dockside program we created to serve 70 students from Riverdale Day School. We also are grateful to Global Partners who funded a sail for Horizons on Hudson in Newburgh.



Education Programs



Youth Empowerment

Young Women at the Helm | Young Men at the Helm | Queerwater

Youth Empowerment Programs - Queerwater, and Young Women and Young Men at the Helm - are free three-day adventures 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 hosted all three of our Youth Empowerment Programs (YEP) for the first time since the pandemic, bringing back Young Men at the Helm, thanks to a generous gift from the Dorr Foundation. Many of the YEP participants expressed interest in remaining engaged with Clearwater, inspiring thoughts about developing a Senior YEP Program or a YEP Reunion, ideas we look forward to exploring in future seasons.

"I learned more knots, more sail theory, and more about the jib. I had the opportunity to spend time with a group of people my age that I didn't know at all, which strengthened my social skills and was a valuable experience."

"Had a fun time hauling with songs, learned a lot about knots, estuary, water quality, etc. Everything was new and challenging but fun!"

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



Onboard & Onland Programs



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater

Hike + Learn

Clearwater's new Hike and Learn program brings together Hudson River experts like scientists, advocates, planners, and historians with community members for formal and informal conversations about the science, history, and future of the Hudson River.



Fire Ecology & Ethnobotany at Albany Pine Bush Preserve
Featuring speakers from Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission & Wild Hudson Valley



John Burroughs and the Emerging Conservation Movement in the Post-Civil War Era
Featuring a speaker from the John Burroughs Association

Open Boat

Each year during our winter restoration season, we invite the public to join us at our workshop in the Grey Barn at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston for music, kids activities, potluck, and to tour the sloop and see our restoration projects firsthand.



Animations Screening with Live Music

In October, we co-hosted a special dockside screening of Harry Smith's "Early Abstractions" with live score by Peter Stampfel and the Atomic Meta-Pagans held in partnership with PortSide NewYork and New York Film/Video Council. Guests were seated on the MARY A. WHALEN, the musicians on the deck of the *Clearwater*, and the Abstractions projected on the sail.



Speaker + Music Sails

This year we hosted a variety of Speaker and Music Sails across the region, featuring knowledgeable local speakers and musicians.



Wes Gillingham, Associate Director of Catskill Mountainkeeper



Samoa Wilson, Folk Musician



Tim Gilman and Haneen Omari, The RETI Center



Paddle for Our Hudson

May 25 – July 26, 2025



This summer Clearwater hosted Paddle for Our Hudson, a new summer challenge that aimed to get people out on the water while raising funds to support our mission. As a fully remote challenge, participants competed against each other and themselves to log 55 miles of paddling in celebration of our 55th sailing season between May 25 and July 26.

Participants paddled waters near and far – calm tributaries, scenic rivers, and remote whitewater – logging a combined 1,555+ miles and raising over \$7,570 to support Clearwater’s programs.

At the Folk Picnic in August, we celebrated our paddle participants and highlighted the first finisher, the paddler who logged the most miles, and the paddler who raised the most funds. Congratulations to Jeffrey Lahm who logged the most miles during the challenge and was our first finisher; and to Steven Greenfield who was our highest fundraiser, and also completed the entire challenge in one day, paddling down the Hudson River from Coeymans to Highland.

We are so grateful to all paddlers, donors, and our outfitter partners, Hudson River Expeditions, I Paddle New York, and Upstate Kayak Rentals.



Music & Celebration



Kingston Earth Fair

May 11, 2024

Clearwater partnered with the City of Kingston to host the Annual Kingston Earth Fair, sponsoring and coordinating two performance stages. Musicians and performances featured a Native American Water Ceremony, live performances by the Center for Creative Education's Community Drummers and Energy Dance Company, the Mid-Hudson Juggling Association, and the Arm of the Sea Theater. Music performances will include Taina Asili, the B2's, Guy Davis, Emma's Revolution, Magpie, Piedmont Blüz Acoustic Duo, Pulso de Barro, The Rix, Sundub, and a Celebration of Peter Seeger.

Folk Picnic

August 3, 2024

Clearwater's Annual Folk Picnic is a return to our musical roots. In the 1960s when Pete and Toshi Seeger and their co-founders set out to build *Clearwater*, they organized community folk picnic fundraisers using music as a tool to unite people behind a shared goal of restoring and protecting the Hudson River. Nearly 60 years later, Clearwater is carrying our musical heritage forward with a free, community-centered day of music, celebration, family activities, and Hudson River advocacy.

Our new Folk Picnic was a joyful celebration of music, community, and the mighty Hudson River. In Clearwater tradition, the Circle of Song invited everyone to join in the music making, with voices, guitars, violins, and more. The event also featured an array of free children's activities such as face painting, hair wrapping, and a lively sprinkler, plus Asian-influenced street fare from Eat Church's food truck.

The 2024 Folk Picnic was a reminder of our deep musical history, and the power of music to bring people together in celebration of community and the Hudson River.



Chopping Wood Celebration + Book Signing

Chopping Wood: Thoughts and Stories of a Legendary Folk Singer by David Bernz

On Sunday, November 10, friends, fans, and folk enthusiasts gathered at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon to celebrate the release of David Bernz new book, *Chopping Wood: Thoughts and Stories of a Legendary Folk Singer*. The evening offered a heartfelt tribute to Pete Seeger's enduring legacy, as attendees joined Pete's long-time collaborator, David Bernz and his son and fellow musician, Jacob Bernz for stories, songs, and reflections on Seeger's remarkable life and legacy.



Environmental Advocacy



Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater

February Webinar Series

Over the winter we hosted a Winter Virtual Learning Series with three sessions featuring guest speakers, exploring the local implications of COP28, Hudson River PCB Fish Consumption Advisories, and the NYS Canal System and the Spread of Invasive Species into the Hudson River.



Aaron Mair
Director of the Forever Adirondacks
Program at the Adirondack Council
and Clearwater Board Member



Dr. Stuart Findlay
Aquatic Ecologist
Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies

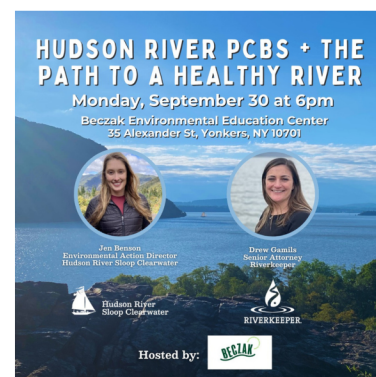


Jen Benson
Director of Advocacy + Communications
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Hudson River Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Contamination Advocacy

This year, Friends of a Clean Hudson (FOCH), a coalition led by Clearwater, Riverkeeper, and Scenic Hudson pushed hard for EPA to render a not protective determination in its forthcoming third Five-Year Review of the Upper Hudson River PCB cleanup remedy:

- 54 municipalities signed on a joint letter
- Press conference with Senator Gillibrand and Albany Mayor Sheehan
- 18 members of Congress from NY and NJ sent letter to EPA
- Activated the public to write comments on the Draft Third Five-Year Review ahead of the 11/7 deadline





2024 Staff & Crew

Staff + Crew

Executive

David Toman, Executive Director

Advocacy & Communications

Jen Benson, Director

Marketing & Development

Meg Mayo, Director

Emily Marcet, Donor Relations Coordinator

Mariabella Rivera Todaro, Events & Sponsorship
Coordinator

Operations

Erin Macchiaroli, Director

Caitlin Zinsley, Administrative Sloop Liaison

Anne Crowley, Administrative Associate

Gigi Rapetti, Administrative Assistant

Programs

Ruthie Gold, Director

Eli Schloss, Tideline Director

Chloe Grey Smith, Onboard Program Coordinator

Jacob Dyck, Onboard Program Coordinator

Joao De La Curz, Sail Scheduling Coordinator

Clearwater Pro-Crew

Rory Kane, Sloop Captain

Liam Henrie, Sloop Captain

James Parker, First Mate

Robin Nevin, Second Mate

Noah Chris Bibula, Third Mate

Tobin Mayo-Kiely, Bosun

Madie Li, Engineer (partial season)

Alexandr Meriwether, Engineer (partial season)

Bethany Quist, Engineer (partial season)

Casey Howard, Engineer (partial season)

MJ Piranio, Cook (partial season)

Julia Suh, Cook (partial season)

Jeb Henrie, Cook (partial season)

Hanaan Yasdi, Deckhand

Annika Rogers, Deckhand

Board of Directors

Officers

Samantha Hicks, Board President

Arthur Jones, Board Vice-President

Neil Gordon, Treasurer

Rosemary Thomas, Secretary

At Large

Tom Murphy

Steve Stanne

Directors

Sarah Armour

Adenike Bamgboye

Peter Capek

Josh Clyburne

Dr. Stuart Findlay

Joan Gaylord

Scott Greathead

Gareth Hougham

Aaron Mair

Jennifer McMillan

Jeremy Rainer

Daniel Riesel

Larry Rothbart

Donna Stein

Sarah Underhill

Julia Wilson

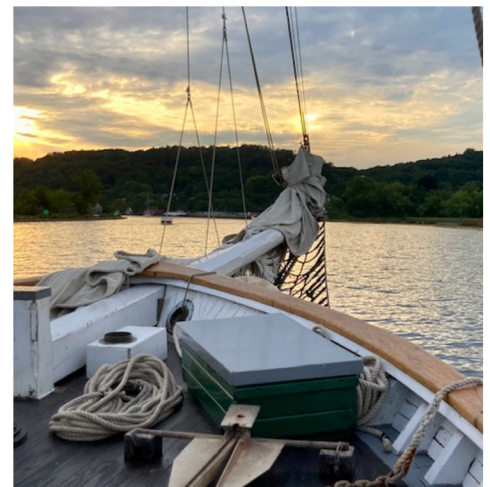
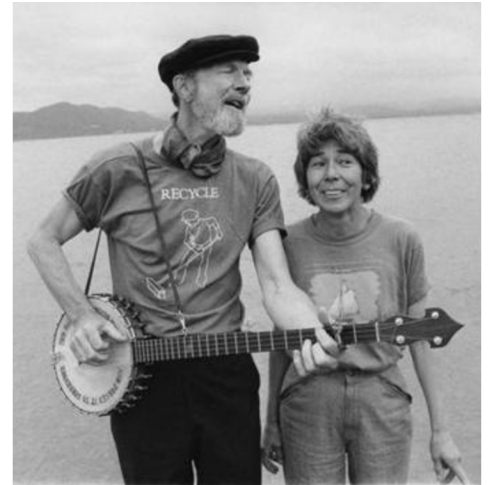


The Pete & Toshi Seeger Society

Members of the Pete & Toshi Seeger Legacy Society have included Clearwater in their estate plans. Their generosity helps support Clearwater's mission for generations to come.

Carol Annas
Melanie Baise
Dorothy Berlin & Michael A.
Harris
Betty Boomer
Beatrice Boyajian
Alice M. Cann
Carol Chu
Carol Cina
Barbara & Vincent Corona
Robert O. Dezemler
James & Margaret Dodge
Donkey Dover, Jr.
Jean Eckert
Michael Minor
Candice Falloon
Joan Faulkner
Richard Flanz
Susan Godfrey
Rob Gogan
Dan Grischowsky
William J. Hansen
Robert Hansen
Adriel Harris
Evelyn Harris

Mildred Hersh
Marcia Hopple
Robert W. & Mida Kaelin
Matthew Katz
Caroline King
Dorothy Kurlander
Judith A. Lindquist
Barbara Lindsey
Marilyn Meese
Tom Murphy
Richard S. Parker
Joseph Patrick
Jack & Nancy Persley
Charles Denis Pruett
Gilbert H. Raab
Shoshana Rothaizer
Lawrence Rothbart
Alan & Rosemary Thomas
David B. Tischler
Louis & Inga Tomson
Jordi Torrent
Jeri Turtle
Sarah Underhill
Pamela Wolff





2024 Financials

Statements of Financial Position

	FY 2024	FY 2023
Current Assets	\$159,446	\$199,665
Property - Net	\$1,187,081	\$1,354,236
Deposits	\$8,800	\$ -
Total Assets	\$1,355,327	\$1,553,901
Liabilities	\$503,660	\$637,651
Net Assets	\$851,667	\$916,250
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,355,327	\$1,553,901

Statement of Activities

Support & Revenue		
	FY 2024	FY 2023
Memberships	\$115,156	\$76,052
Contributions	\$914,769	\$564,097
Grants	\$94,263	\$97,449
Events	\$135,813	\$99,223
Program & Sloop Fees	\$253,396	\$281,757
Merchandise & Other	\$8,706	\$21,338
Total Support & Revenues	\$1,522,103	\$1,139,916

Expenses		
	FY 2024	FY 2023
Sloop & Education	\$865,711	\$834,018
Advocacy	\$71,967	\$72,576
Community Events	\$13,502	\$18,716
Administration	\$439,287	\$439,870
Fundraising	\$196,219	\$207,955
Total Expenses	\$1,586,686	\$1,573,135

Support

Donate

Help keep Clearwater sailing and teaching for generations to come. Your gift powers hands-on education, music, and activism along the Hudson.

Become a Member

When you join Clearwater, you become part of a community dedicated to protecting the Hudson and inspiring future generations. Your membership keeps the sloop sailing and our mission strong.

Sponsor

Support Clearwater's signature events like the Spirit of the Hudson Gala, Paddle for Our Hudson, and Community Sails. Help make our programs possible and gain valuable visibility for your business.

Sail

Step aboard the *Clearwater* and experience the Hudson like never before, from the deck our historic Hudson River Sloop. Join us for a Public, Music, Speaker, or Charter Sail.

Volunteer

Lend a hand aboard the sloop or in our office. Volunteers keep Clearwater moving forward, on the water and on shore. From volunteering onboard to shore support, to office projects, put your skills and interests to work at Clearwater.

Collaborate

Cohost a Program

Let's design creative experiences together, on board or on shore. We welcome schools, nonprofits, municipalities, and community partners to dream big with us.

Make us a Grant

Help sustain Clearwater's mission of education, justice, and restoring the Hudson. Grant funding provides stability to ensure our work can continue for the long haul.

Reach out to explore other ideas!



**Hudson River
Sloop Clearwater**

America's Environmental Flagship

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