



6626 Stitt Road Altamont, NY 12009

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C u r r e n t s

Celebrating the Clean Water Act

In October 1972, the U.S. Congress passed Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, now commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act. Passage of this unique legislation resulted in the expenditure of billions of dollars to protect the "physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters". This Act resulted from the unprecedented public clamor for protection and restoration of our nation's aquatic natural resources and served as a model for much of today's environmental legislation.

On Thursday, October 3 and Friday October 4, 2002, the Hudson River Environmental Society (HRES) will host a technical conference to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and review three decades of the Act's success and failures. This conference will be held at the Old Federal Plaza in Manhattan. It will focus on New York Harbor and adjacent waterways that have been targets of considerable Clean Water Act activities, demonstrating improvements in water quality and the health of aquatic ecosystems. A unique opportunity for environmental scientists, engineers, managers, and policy makers to come together, the Clean Water Act Conference will address the following three questions with regard to New York Harbor:

- With the expenditure of billions of dollars over the past 30 years, what has been accomplished?
- What have we learned since the passage of the Clean Water Act?
- Where do we go from here?

The tentative agenda for this conference is:

1. Regulatory Overview Module
2. Engineering Fixes Module
3. Pollution Reduction Module
4. Ecosystem Improvements Module
5. The Future.

Detailed Program on page 3

In addition to this technical conference, HRES will be holding a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act in the afternoon and evening of Thursday October 3 at Pier 26. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served at this informal get-together which will include an appearance by Pete Seeger, underwater videography of the Harbor showing in-water demos and maneuvers by Urban Divers, and an opportunity to row aboard the *Felicity*. The Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* will be at the pier. A detailed program and registration form for this exciting and thought-provoking two-day event is included in this newsletter. For more information, contact Stephen Wilson at (518) 861-8020 or via email at StephenWilson1@compuserve.

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HRES Holds Annual Meeting

Since it was chartered in 1970, the Hudson River Environmental Society's goal continues to be "to help science enlighten decision-making by bringing together scientists, educators, and decision makers."

At its 32nd Annual Meeting on June 6th, HRES honored four members for noteworthy professional accomplishments that contribute to the continued rebirth of the Hudson River. Their works enhance public understanding of one of the world's most complex

and biologically diverse ecosystems and have facilitated wise management and regulatory decisions in Albany and in Washington DC. Dr. Gerald Lauer, of Monroe NY, received the HRES Distinguished Service Award honoring his career-long attention to Hudson River fisheries. Dr. Lauer managed studies of Hudson River power plants' impacts upon fish eggs and larvae, and also established a striped bass hatchery, which produced fish to compensate for irretrievable losses of fish at power plants. Dr. Stuart Findlay, Scientist, Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, received the HRES Outstanding Environmental Researcher award, recognizing important studies concerning the contribution of dissolved organic carbon to aquatic ecosystem food webs, human-induced changes in wetland functions, and impacts of zebra mussels on the River's ecosystems.

Thomas Lake, Wappingers Falls, received the HRES Outstanding Environmental Communicator award recognizing his work as Editor of the Hudson River Almanac, a must-read description of environmental incidents, insights, and life as experienced on the River. Dr. Susan Metzger, Pearl River, was presented a special award recognizing her work as Editor of the HRES newsletter, *Currents*, as well as her many contributions to HRES. Dr. Metzger leads a team of biologists who have studied Hudson River fisheries populations and the impact of power plants and pier and piling construction upon fisheries. Dina Cappiello, Science Reporter, Albany Times Union was the featured speaker at the Annual meeting. HRES presented her with a Certificate recognizing her work, including her PCBs series. Ms. Cappiello has maintained objectivity in her reporting, even while focusing on emotionally charged and polarizing Hudson River issues. Read on for news about HRES' upcoming Clean Water Act Conference.



Former President Bob Henshaw presents the HRES Outstanding Researcher Award to Dr. Stuart Findlay of Institute of Ecosystems Studies at the HRES Annual Meeting on June 6, 2002.

CO-SPONSORS:

Hudson River Sloop *CLEARWATER*
 Interstate Environmental Commission
 NYC Department of Environmental Protection
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 NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program
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Celebrating the Clean Water Act: 30 Years of Success in New York Harbor

TECHNICAL SESSION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2002
 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
 26 FEDERAL PLAZA

- 10:00–10:15 **Welcome:** C. Ward, Commissioner of New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- 10:15–10:30 **Opening Remarks:** J. Kenny, Region 2 Administrator for the United States Environmental Protection Agency

A REGULATORY OVERVIEW

- 10:30–11:00 **The Evolution of Federal and State Roles in Water Quality Management:** N. Jaworski, US EPA National Estuary Laboratory (Retired)
- 11:00–11:30 **The Clean Water Act: A Lawyer's Perspective:** G. S. Peter Bergen, Esq.
- 11:30–12:00 **Programs Spawned by the Clean Water Act: What Hath Congress Wrought?** W. Muszynski, P.E., Deputy Regional Director, US EPA Region 2

- 12:00–1:00 **Lunch: Environmentalist's Perspective on the Clean Water Act:** C. Sommers, Natural Resources Defense Council

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

- 1:00–1:30 **Improving Wastewater Treatment in New York City:** P. Heckler, NYC DEP
- 1:30–2:00 **Improving Wastewater Treatment in New Jersey Areas of the Harbor:** M. Shaih, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- 2:00–2:30 **CSOs in the Hudson River Estuary: A Factor in Developing Potential Beach Sites:** G. Apicella, Lawler, Matusky, & Skelly Engineers
- 2:30–3:00 **Cleaning Up the Industrial Side:** B. LaGrotta, NYC DEP

program continued on page 4

Celebrating the Clean Water Act: 30 Years Of Success In New York Harbor

Please print clearly and register one person per form. This form may be photocopied.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____

Email _____

Conference Fees

Two-day Conference and Thursday Evening Celebration (Please circle an amount)

	By 9/23	After 9/23	On-Site
HRES Members	\$120	\$150	\$185
Non-members	\$150	\$200	\$250
Students	\$60	\$75	\$95

Thursday only, including Evening Celebration (Please circle an amount)

	\$95	\$120	\$150
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Friday only (Please check an amount)

	\$75	\$95	\$120
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Thursday Evening Celebration only (Please circle an amount)

	\$30	\$40	\$55
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You may enroll now in HRES and receive the member rate for this conference.

- \$10 Student (special rate with conference registration)
- \$25 Regular
- \$50 Professional
- \$75 Contributing
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$500 Corporate
- \$300 Non-profit or Educational Institution
- \$400 Life Membership

Please make checks payable to Hudson River Environmental Society and mail to HRES, 6626 Stitt Road, Altamont, NY 12009. Vouchers will be accepted.

For more information: (518) 861-8020; stephenwilson1@compuserve.com; www.hres.org

EVENING CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2002

4:00-7:00 PM

Pier 26, West Side Highway at No. Moore Street,
between Canal & Chambers Streets

- Pete Seeger
- Hors d'oeuvres and drinks
- Live from the bottom of the Harbor, underwater videography by Urban Divers
- Review of Clearwater Aquatic Education Programs
- Hudson River Sloop *CLEARWATER* at the pier
- Rowing on *FELICITE*, The East River Apprentice Shop

TECHNICAL SESSION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2002

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

26 FEDERAL PLAZA

POLLUTION REDUCTION

8:30-9:00

Trends in Wastewater Loadings to the Metropolitan Hudson Estuary over the Past Century: L. Hetling, New York State Department of Health (Retired)

9:00-9:30

Reductions in Toxic Pollutant Loadings: S. Chillrud, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University

9:30-10:00

Changes in Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Since Passage of the Clean Water Act: R. Ranheim, NYC DEP

10:00-10:30

Pathogen Trends in New York Harbor:
J. Olander, US EPA

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

ECOSYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

11:00-11:30

Changes in the Lower Trophic Levels Over the Past 30 Years: J. Levinton, State University of New York, Stony Brook

11:30-12:00

Response by Fishes to Cleaner Waters:
J. Waldman, Hudson River Foundation

12:00-1:00

Lunch

1:00-1:30

Avian Communities in a Recovering Watershed: The New York/New Jersey Harbor: P. Kerlinger, Curry & Kerlinger, LLC.

1:30-2:00

Evolving Goals and Human Uses:
W. Woods, NYC DEP

THE FUTURE

2:00- 2:30

Future Issues: National Perspective:
W. Muszynski, P.E., Deputy Regional Director, US EPA Region 2

2:30-3:00

Future Issues: Regional Perspective:
H. Golub, Interstate Environmental Commission

