A Tribute to
Rob Taylor

by Scott S. Keller

Those of us in the north have lost a dear friend, as have paddlers in general.

Rob Taylor, of the HRWA Advisory Board, died November 27th of a cardiac arrest following an accident with his hunting rifle. He is survived by his wife, Leah, and two teenage sons, Justin and Jason.

Rob Taylor managed five state parks on the Hudson River, which included Peebles Island, Schodack Island, Hudson Islands Park, and the Athens and Coxsackie State Boat Launches. Rob was a big proponent of paddling in general and the Hudson River Water Trail in particular. All five of his parks were designated as part of the Water Trail.

Rob was known for his creativity and hard work. He built Schodack Islands from a patch of dirt to a site with two boat launches (one on the Hudson River and one on Schodack Creek), a pavilion, rest rooms and miles of trails. Under his watch the launches at Coxsackie and Athens were completely rebuilt, and Hudson Islands Park was refurbished to a standard never before seen.

Part of the reason Rob was so committed to his work was he was a paddler and outdoorsman like the rest of us. He was a longtime volunteer in the NYS Parks Search and Rescue Team and for the past five years he co-organized the Hudson River Valley Ramble, a 3 day paddle and camp-out which highlighted all of Rob’s parks.

At his funeral, despite the pouring rain, the line stretched for several hundred feet around the building, with many people waiting the better part of an hour just to enter. Perhaps in this case, the traditional words of “ashes to ashes” don’t apply. As the storm outside the church testified, Rob Taylor was a man of the waters.

Dr John Waldman To Address the HRWA March 19th

by Robert Huszar

Did you know that...

...the Hudson River originally crossed through the palisades, a little south of Nyack, and made it’s way down to the Atlantic ocean via New Jersey’s Raritan River?

...the Hudson is home to 206 species of fish, half of which live in the harbor region?

...in colonial days, the Gowanus canal—then know as Gowane’s Creek—boasted oysters the size of dinner plates, that were considered the best in the country.

...that the East River was once plagued with Shark attacks?

Well, you’ll learn that and more when Dr John Waldman—author of Heartbeats in the Muck—presents his lecture/slide show on the environmental history of the Hudson River and the New York Harbor. Starting roughly in the last ice age, Dr Waldman briefly continued on page 6
The Cold Spring Kayak Club is a not-for-profit organization with flat water paddling adventures in the spring, summer and fall season throughout the Hudson Valley, Long Island Sound as well as wilderness trips in the Adirondacks. CSKC members receive 10% discounts from participating merchants, as well as free kayak lessons at our skill session.

The Cold Spring Kayak Club was founded in May 2000 by Joanne Salvo to bring paddling companions together and to promote the sport of kayaking. We aim to communicate togetherness and to promote the sport of kayaking. We aim to communicate togetherness and to promote the sport of kayaking. We aim to communicate togetherness and to promote the sport of kayaking.
H.R.W.A.

continued from page 1

outlines the geological forces that shaped our favorite paddling destination, before moving to the effects of early colonization and the first days of transcontinental shipping. From those early days up to the 1800’s, the Hudson was still in a relative “golden period,” supporting a massive oyster industry and a fishing industry that prompted sport fishing authority, William Zeisel, to declare New York City, America’s angling capital. Unfortunately, by the early 1900’s, the unregulated growth was starting to take it’s toll, and in 1906 the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission warned of “seas of floating garbage” as far as fifteen miles from Manhattan. It’s pretty much downhill from there, until the pendulum began to swing the other way with the passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972. Dr. Waldman takes us through the river’s decline and through the river’s resurgence, conducting a tour along the way of our present waterway and all its intriguing NY/NJ back bays, issuing a health report as he goes. Want to know the status of your favorite paddling habitat, then you can’t miss this lecture.

John Waldman earned his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology through a special joint program between the City University of NY and the American Museum of Natural History. He spent the next 20 years working at the Hudson River Foundation, where the goal was to expand knowledge about the river among the scientific community, policy makers, and the public at large, in an effort to launch initiatives that would enhance management of the Hudson ecosystem. During that time, he also supervised the striped bass tagging program.

In the Fall of 2004, Dr. Waldman joined the faculty of Queens College as a tenured professor of Biology, where his research is focusing on the ecology and evolution of fishes, especially the diadromous forms—those that migrate between fresh and salt water—and the historical ecology of rivers and urban waterways, as well as estuarine biology.

In addition to Heartbeats in the Muck, Dr. Waldman has authored and edited more than 60 scientific articles and ten books, including, The Dance of the Flying Gurnards, and 100 Weird Ways to Catch Fish, which sheds new light on the age-old battle of wits between mankind and fishes.

Dr. John Waldman will be doing his “Heartbeats in the Muck” talk and slideshow at the Beczak Environmental Education Center, 35 Alexander Street, Yonkers, NY, on March 19 at 7pm. We are asking for a $5.00 suggested donation and will be serving light refreshments. For directions or if you just want to tell us about a launch or landing site that ought to be on the map, please write us at: avironvoile@gmail.com.

Ultimately, we hope to form an umbrella group that can effectively represent the collective interests of all of the harbor’s paddling and rowing organizations.

The map shown here is a static version and does not show all the new sites. For the complete interactive map, please visit the Parks Department website at http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/kayak. For a paper copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Going Coastal, Inc., 230 Sackett St., Brooklyn, NY 11231. You can reach them via e-mail at info@goingcoastal.org.

If you’re an individual paddler or rower who’d like to be on our mailing list, or if your group would like to join our coalition, or if you just want to tell us about a launch or landing site that ought to be on the map, please write us at: avironvoile@gmail.com.

H.R.W.A.

City of Water, Governor’s Island, NYC

New York City Watertrail

By Rob Buchanan

Village Community Boathouse, Pier 40, Manhattan

Last April, with a good deal of fanfare, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation announced the creation of the NYC Water Trail—a recreational network consisting of 18 existing and ten new public canoe and kayak launches in all five boroughs. In other words, a government agency began officially encouraging human-powered boaters to use the harbor. Considering our societal obsession with safety and liability, it was a remarkably bold initiative.

Under the direction of Queens Borough Parks Commissioner— and avid kayaker— Dorothy Lewandowski, the network has continued to expand and the second edition of the Water Trail Guide—a free map printed by the advocacy group, Going Coastal—will include an additional ten new launch sites, five of them in Jamaica Bay.

This winter, a small group of human-powered boating advocates came together to support the trail initiative and formed the New York City Water Trail Association. Our mission is to support the safe use of the Water Trail, to lobby for more launches, landings and boathouses, and to advance awareness of the public’s ownership of our urban waterways.

So far, we’ve established a harbor-wide event calendar (www.nycwatertrail.org) and begun to lobby for more access at a couple of “hot spots,” including the Bronx Kill and the state parks along the East River. We’ve also written a grant proposal for the installation of “tide wheels” at harbor launch sites that would convey the peculiar phenomenon of tidal current lag in a graphically simple way (details available here: http://www.newyorkharbortechnologies.org/blog/).

Ultimately, we hope to form an umbrella group that can effectively represent the collective interests of all of the harbor’s paddling and rowing organizations.

NYC Human Powered Boating Events Calendar

(see nycwatertrail.org for further listings and more information)

Sunday, March 29, 9:00am

NYKP pool session at SPC

Saturday, April 11, 6:00pm

Marcus Demuth, Falkland Islands Circumnavigation Slideshow

Thursday, April 23, 7:00pm

East River Crew Benefit Party

May 9, 9:00am

Hudson River Pageant—TBA

May 16, All day

East River Crew Training Weekend—9:00am

Downtown Boathouse Opening Day—9:00am

Sunday, May 17, 1:00pm

Red Hook Boaters Free Walk-up Kayaking

NYC Water Trail Map

For Interactive map see website at:

http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/kayak

NYC Water Trail Map

For Interactive map see website at:

http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/kayak

By Rob Buchanan

Village Community Boathouse, Pier 40, Manhattan

Last April, with a good deal of fanfare, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation announced the creation of the NYC Water Trail—a recreational network consisting of 18 existing and ten new public canoe and kayak launches in all five boroughs. In other words, a government agency began officially encouraging human-powered boaters to use the harbor. Considering our societal obsession with safety and liability, it was a remarkably bold initiative.

Under the direction of Queens Borough Parks Commissioner—and avid kayaker—Dorothy Lewandowski, the network has continued to expand and the second edition of the Water Trail Guide—a free map printed by the advocacy group, Going Coastal—will include an additional ten new launch sites, five of them in Jamaica Bay.

This winter, a small group of human-powered boating advocates came together to support the trail initiative and formed the New York City Water Trail Association. Our mission is to support the safe use of the Water Trail, to lobby for more launches, landings and boathouses, and to advance awareness of the public’s ownership of our urban waterways.

So far, we’ve established a harbor-wide event calendar ( www.nycwatertrail.org) and begun to lobby for more access at a couple of “hot spots,” including the Bronx Kill and the state parks along the East River. We’ve also written a grant proposal for the installation of “tide wheels” at harbor launch sites that would convey the peculiar phenomenon of tidal current lag in a graphically simple way (details available here: http://www.newyorkharbortechnologies.org/blog/).

Ultimately, we hope to form an umbrella group that can effectively represent the collective interests of all of the harbor’s paddling and rowing organizations.

The map shown here is a static version and does not show all the new sites. For the complete interactive map, please visit the Parks Department website at http://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/kayak. For a paper copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Going Coastal, Inc., 230 Sackett St., Brooklyn, NY 11231. You can reach them via e-mail at info@goingcoastal.org.

If you’re an individual paddler or rower who’d like to be on our mailing list, or if your group would like to join our coalition, or if you just want to tell us about a launch or landing site that ought to be on the map, please write us at: avironvoile@gmail.com.
Lee Goldsmith—President
Lee Goldsmith started kayaking in Maine in 1990. Back then, whether paddling on vacation or in his home waters of the Long Island Sound out of Mamaroneck Harbor, he often found himself paddling alone.

The picture he decided to use was taken in 2007 while he participated in the second Edler Swim, which stretched from Battery Park in lower Manhattan to Sandy Hook in NJ, and it exemplifies the changes that have occurred in the intervening years.

When he first started to paddle he often found himself alone on the water. Now kayakers are involved in swimmer escort and he participates whenever he can. Today, thanks to the various clubs, swim groups and organizations like HRWA he finds himself surrounded by dozens, literally, hundreds of other kayakers. Suddenly, it was more than just exercising, or enjoying the scenery. It was about involvement. In Lee’s words, “The HRWA represents that involvement and exemplifies the good work that kayakers do for the river. It is only natural that the river and recreation would both come together for him. After buying his first kayak in 1982, Jack has been trying his best to be a dedicated river rat.

Nancy Brous—Vice President, Metropolitan Region Director
Nancy Brous has a BA in Political Science and an MFA in Theatrical Design and has worked for 15 years designing costumes for both stage and screen.

As a kayaker, Nancy is a trip leader for the Downtown Boathouse and a Member of the NY Kayak Polo Women’s and Bl division teams, both of which have placed in the playoffs at the US National Championships for the last several years. Nancy also holds a British Canoe Union 3 Star Certification in Sea kayaking and Canoe (Kayak) Safety.

Nancy is a founding member and vice-president of NY Kayak Polo, a founding member and president of NYRiverSports/pier66nyc.org, and has worked as the kayak coordinator for the Manhattan Island Foundation, organizing the safety-kayakers who guide the swimmers in open water races in and around Manhattan. Nancy is also a member of the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program’s Public Access Working Group, a member of Manhattan Community Board 2’s waterfront committee, and a founding member of the NYC Water Trail Association.

Nancy also serves on the Hudson River Park Advisory Council where she has been an unstoppable lobbyist for boater’s rights and access issues on the Hudson River.

Bob Huszar—Founder—Newsletter Editor
After a long stint in the post-production world, working on such diverse films as Spike Lee’s JIM BROWN, ALL AMERICAN and Godfrey Reggio’s NAGOYAGATSI, Bob has returned to his roots as a freelance writer, a Registered Nurse, and a kayaker.

As a writer, his work has appeared in New York Outdoors, New Age, and Sea Kayaker magazines. His play, RAINDANCE, was performed at the West Bank Café. His latest project was PURE ANIMATION (2006, Merrell Publishers Limited), where he was employed as the technical writer.

As a kayaker, Bob founded the Hudson River Watertrail Association, after his solo paddle from New York to Canada. Additionally, Bob was a Co-owner of the Manhattan Kayak Company, NYC’s first full service touring and teaching facility. In 1995 he was a guest of the Duranac River Festival, the oldest kayak rally in Europe and has guest lectured at L.L. Bean in Maine and Paddlesport in New Jersey.

When not on the water, Bob can be found riding either Creamycycle or Torque, exploring the labyrinth of New York City bike trails.

Scott Keller—Advisory Board
Advisory Board Member Scott Keller is the Trails and Special Projects Director for the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. He is responsible for the development of the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail, an 86 mile site water trail from Whitehall, New York at the head of Lake Champlain to Battery Park in Manhattan.

He is also responsible for the Great Hudson River Paddle, an annual 150 mile paddling and camping trip from Albany to Manhattan begun in 2001. He has served on the HRWA Board since 1994 and is a past President and past Vice President.

Scott is married, has three children and lives near Albany. Paddling has been an integral part of his life since he was a child. Prior to his transfer to Albany, he commuted to work by canoe across the Hudson between Ulster and Dutchess Counties.

Jack Gilman—Newsletter Production
Jack is a graphic artist who has lived on the shore of the Hudson River in Yonkers, NY, since 1980. Having that backshop, it is only natural that the river and recreation would both come together for him. After buying his first kayak in 1982, Jack has been trying his best to be a dedicated river rat.

Jack has been active with HRWA, serving previously as a board member then a member of the advisory board. He also was instrumental with Jim Logan in designing and producing the HRWA Guide.

He has also been involved with Scott Keller as part of the organization of the Great Hudson River Paddle, and also served as a guide for all the trips. At this point, Jack has done the Albany to NYC trip 9 times, as well as a trip from Burlington, VT to Albany on the Champlain Canal.

Recently, Jack has been actively involved with the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, serving as its Commodore from 1999-2000, and is currently the House Captain. He also runs the YPRC boat building shop, offering classes in boat building to club members.

Rafael Diaz—Highlands Region Director
Rafael Diaz is the longest standing board member of HRWA. He has long been a champion of kayaking and access to the water. In the 1990s, Ralph helped create a number of NYC Parks Dept launch sites and wrote a guide to these. He was the head of the Human Powered Boating Group that defended kayakers from restrictions on their use of New York City’s waters and fostered cooperation with commercial users of the harbor.

For a number of years, Ralph organized and participated in kayak support for numerous swims on the Hudson. He devised basic techniques for kayakers to work effectively with swimmers to keep them out of danger and on course in confusing waters.

Ralph’s wider claim to fame was in the world of folding kayaks. He wrote The Complete Folding Kayaker that was published by McGraw-Hill and went into a 2nd edition. The book is considered a bible by many and is used by US Special Forces in their training. He also did a newsletter on folding kayaks that had subscribers in over a half dozen countries.

The Hudson remains Ralph’s favorite place to paddle. In the early 1990s, Ralph paddled a double Klepper with Ian Giddy from Albany to NYC as Ian did research for the HRWA’s Paddlers.
Establish settlements along the Hudson Shortly thereafter, the Dutch began to look for the mythical Northwest Passage to the Orient. The name Amsterdam associated with this river referred to the Dutch spice traders who traveled there in search of new lands and new opportunities. The first European to discover the Hudson was Henricus Hudson, an Englishman sailing for the Dutch and attracted by its abundance. The first European to sail the River was John Stevens (The Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., is named for him and his family), the steamboat was invented by a commercial sailboat, and his name is associated with most of us with its invention: Robert Fulton, Fulton's boat had her maiden voyage in 1807; it was originally named the North River and later renamed the Clermont, after his father-in-law's Hudson Valley estate. She sailed from New York to Albany and back in 62 hours, a journey that would have taken at least a week under sail. Steamboats soon became the accepted way to travel and opened up the Hudson to large numbers of visitors. By 1850, 100 steamboats plied the River, carrying a million passengers (The Hudson—An Illustrated Guide to the Living River, Starne et al, 1996, p. 123). “The invention of the steamboat made the Hudson more accessible to people.”

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 contributed enormously to the flow of people using the River for travel and commerce and changed the economies of the towns along its banks. Stretching from Albany to Buffalo, the Canal joined the Hudson and the Great Lakes, making a sea passage from the east coast to the Midwest. Originally derided as “Clinton’s Ditch,” after its sponsor Governor DeWitt Clinton, the canal was a huge success. “It turned New York Harbor into America’s number one port, and it shaped the social and economic development of the nation. Shipping costs dropped dramatically, immigrants to America, in search of new lands and new opportunities. It brought the Hudson River Valley to life with The Last of the Mohicans and other novels (together known as The Leatherstocking Tales). The Hudson River School, artists, the Hudson River School artists, were given a new name. The Knickerbocker writers, named after Washington Irving’s fictional account, A History of New York by DeIDRICH, KROCKER, began to write in the first decade of the 1800s. The group included Washington Irving, William Cullen Bryant, and James Fennimore Cooper. Irving endowed the mythology of the Hudson Valley with “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and Rip Van Winkle. Bryant Park, behind the New York Public Library on 42nd Street, is named for the author of Thanatopsis. Fennimore brought the upper Hudson Valley to life with The Last of the Mohicans and other novels (together known as The Leatherstocking Tales).”

The Hudson River School of painters was born, and included Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, Stanford Gifford, Jasper Cropsey and Frederic Church, among others. They all had homes along the River, since at that time, “residing and painting in the Hudson Valley was considered essential to art education.”

The Hudson River School had its heyday between 1825 and 1875. The works of the Hudson River School painters can be viewed at the New York Historical Society in New York City, The Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, the Albany Institute of History and Art and the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. In addition, Frederick Church’s home, Olana, is open to visitors as a State Historic Site. It is located just south of the town of Hudson. The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.

The Hudson River Valley has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world. The Hudson River is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists, and paddlers from around the world.
HRWA Membership Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name (1)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city, state, zip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telephone #</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-mail address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ I am available for volunteer activities __________________________

Type of Membership: New _______ Renewal _______

☐ Basic $35        ☐ Renewal $25  ☐ Contributor $100
☐ Patron $500      ☐ Saint $100

Send to:
Hudson River Watertrail Association
Box 110, 245 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10011

HRWA is back!

Welcome to our first, newly-renovated newsletter of the HRWA. We are new, we are improved, but we are only as good as you help us to be. The HRWA is, and always was, a volunteer organization, dedicated to building and maintaining access sites and campsite for human powered boaters on the Hudson River and beyond. That means we need updates (photos and words) on all 86 sites, plus assessments of possible future sites. And if you don’t do it... well, you really don’t want Jack and I camping in your backyard for a week... do you???