



# Ships to Save the Waters

## Presenter Bios

Liberty State Park  
Jersey City, New Jersey  
July 1 & 2, 2000

Hosted by

Sloop Clearwater (NY)  
Schooner AJ Meerwald (NJ)  
Schooner Ernestina (MA)  
Ships to Save the Waters Steering Committee

Sponsored by

Liberty State Park Development Corporation  
Liberty Landing Marina  
State of New Jersey

Featured Speakers

Pete Seeger  
Madame Francine Cousteau



*"Pictorial with  
the State of New Jersey  
in the creation of  
Liberty State Park"*

**Liberty State Park**  
Development Corporation

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## Bios of Panelists, Presenters and Musicians to Save the Waters

**Sharon Abreu** is a singer, instrumentalist, songwriter and environmental educator from New York City. Her music encompasses a wide variety of styles. While attending college at New York University, Sharon emerged from behind the orchestra stand by backing up folksingers in Greenwich Village, and eventually began backing up herself. Already a professional musician, Sharon joined the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater environmental group in 1993. She began to learn what was going on in the environment around her, and became an active environmentalist and educator, using music to teach and inspire about environmental concerns. Sharon has performed with Pete Seeger in the N.Y.C. public schools and in several concerts including benefits for the A.J. Meerwald and the "Ships to Save the Waters" conference. Along with partner Stammers Rameau, she performs "Turn the World Upside Down", an original musical environmental show for kids, in the N.Y.C. public schools and beyond. Sharon has appeared on "Good Day Dallas" on the Fox network, and the "Earth Matters" and "Songs of Freedom" cable television shows. Her songs have been played on such radio stations as WBAI, WQXR ("Woody's Children"), WUSB, WFUDU, WMBR, and KUNI. For the last three years, Sharon has performed at the United Nations in New York during the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development. Hired as a singer for a special ceremony, she quickly became involved in the process, which focuses each year on a specific aspect of the global environment and the work environment. In April 2000, she wrote and performed "Seeds in the Soil" for the U.N. ceremony, which focused on the theme of youth and agriculture. In January 2000, she performed her global warming song "Change in the Climate" at a meeting for the N.Y.C. Metro Region Input to the N.Y.S. Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Sharon also works with Wetlands Preserve in N.Y.C. and the Plight of the Redwoods Campaign in northern California. Her song "Mary and Julia" highlights the extraordinary work of Redwoods activists Redwood Mary and Julia Butterfly Hill.

**Gerty Bataille** heard about Clearwater for the first time in her native country of The Netherlands having just bought a musical album with the address of Hudson River Sloop Restoration, Inc. on the cover. She wrote a letter to the Cold Spring based organization and some weeks later received a thick envelope filled with information about an environmental group who used a sailboat as a tool to get the public more aware of environmental pollution. Someone suggested, "If you are ever in the USA, maybe you can come and sail on the boat." Quite a proposal for a 15 year old kid who had never been sailing, but was living in a country where the design of Hudson River Sloops had originally come from. This "dream" came true when she joined Clearwater for the first time in September 1979, volunteered in the office some time, went on the boat for a transit from Poughkeepsie to New York City and volunteered onboard the sloop for a week of educational programs on the waters of the bay afterwards. That first time with Clearwater proved to be a life-changing experience. Gerty has returned many times to help out on Clearwater. She has carried the inspiration across the Atlantic to Holland for the Dutch Mother Foundation; an organization trying to draw the public's attention to salt an fresh water environments by seeking media attention for marine matters and organizing sails on board a sailing ketch to wetland and marine environments in The Netherlands and abroad. Today she works with Greenpeace Nederland with the 'Sailing for the Environment' project and is working on forming a new organization: 'Clearwater Nederland,' that will bring the program onto traditional Dutch flat-bottomed sailing vessels.

Since 1969 **Betty Beaumont's** works have helped define Ecological Art— a model of interdisciplinary problem solving. She is internationally recognized for her environmental and conceptual art marked by deep-seated social and ecological concerns, ranging widely from visionary landscape projects, photo-based art, image/text/object works, information art, and interactive combined-media installations. After receiving her Master's degree from the College of Environmental Design in the School of Architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, Beaumont began showing widely in the United States and Europe in the early 1970s. Since then she has produced a body of research-based psycho/bio/social projects that are unique works of visual art. She has had over 150 solo and group exhibitions that include the Whitney Museum of Art in New York, PS 1 Museum, The Hudson River Museum, The Queens Museum and The National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo, and in Kyoto. An artist and educator, she has served on the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, SUNY, Purchase (where she was awarded the 1989 Professor of the Year Award), Hunter College, and is currently at New York University. Among the awards and fellowships she has been honored to receive are five National Endowment for the Arts grants, three New York State Council for the Arts grants, two Pollock-Krasner grants, the German Umwelt Stiftung Award, and she is currently funded by Creative Capital Foundation. Beaumont has served as a member of the Board of Advisors for the Art & Technology Program at the New York Hall of Science as well as on the Board of Directors of Women Make Movies.

**Meredith (Merry) Brennan** heads her own writing and public relations business, and is a consulting journalist/PR strategist for several corporate and non-profit organizations. She also teaches writing at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. A long-time eco-activist, she wrote a weekly environmental column, EarthWays, which appeared in New Jersey's Asbury Park Press and has been reprinted in magazines and newsletters nationwide as well as in Canada and Australia. (Clips are available on the EarthWays website [www.tomerrycomm.com/ewayshome.html](http://www.tomerrycomm.com/ewayshome.html)). Her efforts to promote a greener lifestyle have been featured by USA Today, Good Housekeeping, Co-op America Quarterly, MSNBC, CNN and dozens of other national media. She's currently on the board of Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater, the Shark River Environmental Roundtable and chairs the Belmar (NJ) Environmental Commission (generating much media coverage for these groups)

All it takes is one fast-moving jig or an emotional ballad for the audience to share in singer-guitarist **Tom Brennan's** love for all things Irish. In addition to Celtic tunes (many in the native language), Brennan's extensive song list includes an eclectic mix of blues, folk and rock. He currently performs as a soloist or with an Irish folk group, Pipe on the Hob. For the past 20 years, Brennan's deep, rich voice and masterful guitar playing has made him a popular draw at clubs, festivals and concerts. He was also among several highly-regarded musicians invited to perform and present workshops during the 1994 Music Educators National Conference. His master's degree in music education, with an emphasis on World Musics, has given him a diverse background in all kinds of music and helped him develop a style that is at once vibrant and accomplished. Besides performing, Brennan is an elementary school music instructor and band director, and runs a home-based computer consulting and web design business.

**Madame Francine Cousteau** is President of The Cousteau Society in the United States and of Equipe Cousteau in France. As president, she continues the work begun by Captain Cousteau to protect the Water Planet for present and future generations. Projects under Mrs. Cousteau's direction include the installation of famed Cousteau flagship, Calypso, at the Maritime Museum in La Rochelle, France, a film and research expedition to the Caspian Sea under the aegis of UNESCO and the Year of the Ocean, a current expedition to Canada and the Coastal Workers program. She also is playing a leadership role in such conservation measures as the Society's Waters of Peace, an international initiative to identify and clean up wastes from the world's ocean, and Future Harvest, the public outreach arm of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

**Ed Dlugosz** has been a member of the Clearwater family since 1993. He is a Director on the Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater Board and is a nominee for the Board of Directors for HRSC in the upcoming elections. He is the Program Manager for the MCFC Clearwater House Education & Conference Center planning/proposal committee and an active liaison on the Clearwater Sloop Club committee. Ed is responsible for creating the Traveling Environmental Festival curriculum and liaises with public school administrators to tailor TEF to individual schools. He is a frequent volunteer with Clearwater for cleanups, protests, activities, and a leader in the MCFC current "Stop the Dumping" campaign and the development of Eatontown Public Schools' Walpack Environmental Education Center.

Best known for his recycling anthem "It Really Isn't Garbage Until You Throw It Away," Songwriter **Danny Einbender** joined Clearwater as a cook back in '79, and eventually worked his way out of the galley as an educator coordinating education programs on the Sloop Clearwater, the Schooner Voyager, and for Clearwater's onland Education Program. He served as musical Director for Clearwater's Arm of the Sea Puppet Theatre, as a Deck Hand on the Soviet/American Trans-Atlantic Sail for Peace in 1989, and coordinated a boat building program for Sleepy Hollow and Dobbs Ferry Schools.

**Maryellen Healy** was born in Levittown to an organized, methodical working mom and a soon-to-be blacklisted union organizer. By high school in the late sixties Healy was putting on hootenannies, leading songs and rabble-rousing her way to becoming class president. Singer, guitarist, environmentalist, educator and organizer, Healy sings and works for causes in which she believes. She galvanized the completion of the cement-hulled sloop Sojourner Truth, a sloop Clearwater offshoot built entirely by volunteers and donations. One third scale sister to Clearwater, Sojourner often sails alongside emphasizing the larger sloop's role as a flagship of the environmental movement worldwide. Past President of the Ferry Sloops Board of Directors, Healy went on to sail as second mate aboard sloop Clearwater; she later served as captain of the ferry sloop Woody Guthrie. Whatever boat she's sailing on, she serves as a resource for history, tradition, and environmental education. She's taught on land for Clearwater, Inc., the Goddard Riverside Community Center and the Ethical Culture School Fieldston Outdoors camp. More recently, Healy conceived and convened Turtle Island Sloop Club an on-line communication among activists within the Clearwater community.

**Tim Keating** has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Stockton State College. Having served on the Hazlet Township Environmental Commission from the age of 16 for six years, during which time the commission was able to set aside 250 acres of native pinelands as a township park, Tim acquired experience in community organizing at the grassroots level. In 1989, he co-founded Rainforest Relief, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the use of unsustainable rainforest materials through education, advocacy and direct action. Recently Tim founded People of Earth to address the loss of community and destruction of Earth stemming from our culture's focus on competition, acquisition and accumulation.

**Thomas M. Kelly** is Executive Director of the Inland Seas Education Association in Suttons Bay, Michigan. Tom received his BS in Resource Planning and MS in Fisheries Biology from the University of Michigan. He was employed by the Univ. of Mich. as a researcher on the Great Lakes for several years before leaving to start his own environmental consulting business and after taking a year off to go sailing. In 1986 Tom sailed aboard CLEARWATER and the commitment to establish a similar program on Lake Michigan was formed. In early 1989 the Inland Seas Education Association began operation on Grand Traverse Bay. Since then 40,000 students have participated in ISEA's experiential learning program of science, history and sailing. Tom holds a 100 ton Master's License.

**Stephen Kent** has run Kent Communications, a public relations practice for non-profit organizations, progressive causes and ideas, since 1988. His environmental and sail education work includes PR and crewing for the Soviet-American Sail, the Haw River Festival and the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, as well as PR consulting for numerous national environmental groups. He is on the national steering committee of the US Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the board of the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action at Manhattanville College and the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison, New York, and directs Nuclear Free Hudson, a new umbrella group cultivating broad-based support for decommissioning the troubled nuclear power plants on the Hudson River at Indian Point.

**Diane Matyas**, Director of Education at the Noble Maritime Collection, has spent the past ten years in the museum education field creating and implementing programs that range from the creative arts to inquiry based science curriculum. She received her BFA and MFA from Cornell University and has worked as a college instructor, an artist in residence, a teaching artist in the public schools, an Arts and Public Program Coordinator at museums, and a designer of permanent public art in addition to her gallery work. Ms. Matyas has consulted on many educational grants, administered hundreds of residency programs to New York City school students, and conducted professional development programs for their teachers, especially applying multiple intelligence learning to standard curriculum. She has created educational exhibits and program designs for family audiences; administered folklore, intergenerational, children-at-risk programs; and taken part in professional education conferences and seminars. Her experience as an arts administrator, teacher, artist, and lover of folklore and creative drama have helped her create the new Noble Maritime Collection programs that celebrate New York Harbor history, the people who work there, and the art the harbor inspires.

**Andre Mele** is Executive Director of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., an 8,000-member not-for-profit environmental NGO based in Poughkeepsie, NY. He is a graduate of Bard College, and author of the controversial book, "Polluting For Pleasure" (W.W. Norton, 1993), which broke the news about oil pollution from outboard motors and personal watercraft. Mele worked as a master boatwright for 15 years, and held memberships in the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers and the Society of Automotive Engineers. Andy helped restore the sloop Clearwater after a disastrous amount of rot damage was discovered in the bow section of the almost-new ship in 1977. After that, he continued to help the ship when things broke, leading eventually to becoming Director of Environmental Programs at Clearwater from 1995-1998, where he worked on PCBs, pesticides, ecologically-sustainable development, habitat protection, marine engines, and many other issues. Mele comes from a long line of seafarers and adventurers:

\* Lt. James Lockwood, who in 1887 achieved a world record for "farthest-north" in discovering the northern tip of Greenland, the first time anyone but an Englishman had held the record in over 300 years.

\* Adm. Charles D. Sigsbee, who spent years at sea developing the first modern oceanographic techniques with Louis Agassiz, and was Captain of the battleship USS Maine when it was blown up in Havana, Cuba, February 1898.

\* Henry Hayes Lockwood, one of the founders of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis.

\* Robert Small, a co-founder of the Associated Press.

\* Anton Otto Fischer, who spent years at sea in square-riggers, and became a successful marine artist.

**Kwame Ocansey** is President & Founder of Lead International, Inc. a non-profit organization that seeks to promote, encourage and provide free education to needy and underprivileged children in Africa and Trustee member of East-River Apprenticeshop, Inc. a non-profit organization founded by folk-singer Pete Seeger to provide ship-building, navigational and leadership skills to at-risk youth in New York City. He is Founder of 'Cross Street Rites Of Passage' a mentor program that matches adults with youth of the church and community for 'life'. Originally a certified school teacher, a professional trainer and technical-writer with a MA in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University, he is currently working on various projects in the community designed to promote functional education, leadership skills, mentoring opportunities and environmental awareness.

**Stephen Suffet** is an educator and folk singer who lives in New York City. He has most recently been involved with El Puente, Peoples Music Network, and New York Pinewoods Folk Music Club.

**Gregg Swanzy** is Executive Director of the Schooner ERNESTINA Commission in New Bedford, Massachusetts. While completing a degree at Cornell University, Gregg became involved with Shoals Marine Labs off Portsmouth, New Hampshire and schooner-based deep sea research with the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole. He later participated in Humpback whale research and education programs to Greenland with the Ocean Research and Education Society from Boston, supervised transAtlantic shipboard classroom programs for dyslexic high school students with the Massachusetts-based Landmark School and captained the Soviet-American Sail 1989 transAtlantic from Leningrad to New York City. He has served as executive director to ERNESTINA since 1994 after ten years with the Hudson River Sloop CLEARWATER as captain and then Board member. Gregg also chairs the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL) of Massachusetts and is President of the Board of the Westport River Watershed Alliance.

**Matt Turk** exemplifies the spirit if the new American Troubadour, having toured the United States and Europe consistently over the past several years. It's clear that Turk's wanderlust makes it impossible for him to be categorized as another mere NYC musician playing the "circuit" with his band. Turk spends time on the road crafting his songs out of life's experiences. From "Buffalohead", where Turk recounts an afternoon in Albuquerque, New Mexico spent with a young shaman in training, a Native-American boy displaying his wares, namely animal bones for sale by the side of an interstate, to "Wind Lift Me" a deeply harmonic song of the open road that embraces a myriad of musical cultures. Even at home in New York City, Turk seeks transcendence from the streets in the Lower East Side eulogy, "Jimmy" a devastating song about stepping through sad tenement doorways into another life. Turk clearly wants more out of a song than a hook, so he lives life. These songs of love and fevered dreams lure the listener to ponder the possibilities of what pure human connection can offer, while the steady groove of the music rewards all in its celebratory sound.

**Sarah Underhill** is a Hudson Valley singer, songwriter, and activist who has been working and singing with the Clearwater, Greenpeace, and People's Music Network organizations for the past 20 years. With traditional songs of the sea and topical songs of environmental activism, she presents a musical alternative to corporate monoculture. She is a Board member of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

**Andrew Voros** is the executive director of the New York / New Jersey Clean Ocean & Shore Trust, a bipartisan marine and coastal resources agency created by legislative acts of the member states. Mr. Voros has served on several boards and committees for the United Nations as well as the Council on Foreign Relations, and has written and lectured extensively on U.S./Africa relations and tropical deforestation. He has appeared on National Public Radio, The Mike Cuthbert Show and CNN's Larry King Live. Mr. Voros holds a B.Sc. in Biology and a B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers University. He worked as a Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park and served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Liberia in West Africa. Subsequently he helped author Liberia's National Parks & Wildlife Act, which established basic protections for that rainforest-nation's natural heritage. Under a grant from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) he founded and chaired the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL). It continues its work to this day. Subsequently he worked as an independent consultant with the U.S. State Department, Johns Hopkins University and Louis Berger International among many others. While producing documentaries on natural and historic subjects he made scientifically significant collections of rainforest plants and animals which are today part of the research collections of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Mr. Voros has been consulted by the U.S. State Department, National Security Council Staff and other agencies, has addressed the board of the Center for Foreign Policy as well as groups at the African American Institute and the African Studies Association. He participated in the Council on Foreign Relations' Committee on the African Environment, and on UNESCO's Pan-African Environmental Committee. He holds visiting appointments at both Rutgers and Columbia Universities.

**Andrew J. Willner** is the Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper, a program of the American Littoral Society (ALS). ALS is national conservation organization, concerned with coastal issues. Baykeeper is the Society's conservation and advocacy program for the Hudson/Raritan (NY/NJ Harbor) Estuary. Willner is a former sailing vessel captain, city planner, and boatbuilder. He is a 1967 graduate of the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of City Planning, and did graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University in sculpture and furniture design. Mr. Willner joined the ALS staff as Baykeeper director in 1989. He formerly owned a yacht building and restoration business in Staten Island, and was on the faculty of the Peters Valley Craft Center, in Layton, NJ, and the WoodenBoat School in Brooklin, ME. For many years Mr. Willner operated Andrew Willner Designs, a furniture design and architectural woodworking business. Mr. Willner is a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Hackensack Meadowlands Special Area Management Plan, member of the Dredge Materials Management Work Group, member of The Safe Harbor Coalition (advising the Oil Spill Trustees on habitat restoration and acquisition), Executive Director of Raritan Baykeeper Inc., Board member and Treasurer of the National Alliance of Waterkeepers, and community representative to the Coast Guard Captain of the Port on Oil Spill Response Team.

**Meghan E. Wren** is Executive Director of the Delaware Bay Schooner Project. A student of literature at the University of Pennsylvania and later of environmental studies at Stockton State College, she postponed completing her formal education to create the Delaware Bay Schooner Project in 1988. Her experiences as a deckhand on the Galveston-based barque ELISSA (a premier example of maritime restoration by the Galveston Historical Foundation), as a crabber on Delaware Bay and as a shipwright apprentice; her life-long love of the water and her deeply held commitment to the environment and cultural landscape of South Jersey inspired her to transform a nearly lost artifact – the decrepit hulk of an old oyster dredger turned surf clammer – into a living voice for Delaware Bay. With a commitment to community involvement, volunteerism and the consensus approach, Ms Wren built the organization and amassed the financial, technical and human resources necessary to restore the 1928 schooner A.J. MEERWALD. Throughout the eight year comprehensive restoration, the Delaware Bay Schooner Project grew to be a well-respected educational institution in the Delaware Valley through the implementation of shore-based field trips, teacher workshops, watershed forums and significant involvement in the seven year development of the Management Plan for the Delaware Estuary. Ms. Wren co-chaired the Citizen's Advisory Committee and served on Management Committee throughout this complex USEPA sponsored planning initiative. Since the completion of the MEERWALD's restoration early in 1996, the authentically restored schooner has become the flagship of the Delaware Bay Schooner Project's stewardship building efforts.; 6,000 school children come sailing each year and an additional 40,000 people participate in various DBSP programs - shipboard, outreach/celebrations and shore-based educational activities. Most of its audience is drawn from residents of the Delaware Estuary Watershed.