

Episode 1: Voluntary Stewardship. Generation Z Has it Right.

A purpose of this channel is to support the teenager Greta Thunberg's generation. The youngest generation clearly understands the dangers of Climate Change with no "off switch" driven by uncontrolled Global Warming.

Generally, the view of the elders, the Viet Nam generation, is a global disaster for humanity is inevitable. Given what we have seen over our lifetimes, the Earth's governments will continue to fail. The Tipping Point of runaway climate collapse, where there is no way back to the environment as it once was, will be reached and passed, not prevented.

Despite the darkness, we call to action as does the youngest generation and offer Voluntary Stewardship as a model and method to respond to the looming threat of an environmental avalanche sweeping away the Global Village.

Think global, act local. By taking individual and collective responsibility as concerned citizens in a democracy, we are using our arts and letters, life experience and life skills on behalf of our Hudson River. Through practical actions in the place where we are (River Miles 130-135) we can offer participation and a share in our journey to explore, record, archive, monitor and inform, presenting a current, non-complacent view of our local environmental reality.

We agree with Greta and her generation - "Our house is on fire!"

We encourage others, who kayak and canoe, to adopt our Voluntary Stewardship model and apply your own means of art and activism wherever you are on the Hudson River. Recording and archiving for posterity as climate change increases is the first of the four simply stated goals which explain and guide the primary activities of voluntary stewardship. Our stewardship is deliberately limited to a five mile length of the river most familiar to us and where we regularly kayak and canoe. Our work is focused and confined to this area to make, over time, a continuous visual record of environmental change. A visual record of environmental conditions, though unremarkable today, in coming decades may become a valued archive of local ecological history as sea levels inexorably rise and local, regional and global weather vary in extreme and unpredictable climate and weather patterns.

Kayaking and canoeing on the Hudson bring the rich biodiversity, the plants and animals of both the riverbank and life in the river itself, into a close up perspective most people are unaware of and will probably never personally experience. These intimate views of the rhythms of nature in seasonal changes and the ever-renewing natural beauty of biodiversity increase appreciation as well as apprehension for life dependent on the river. Here our work creates a baseline visual record of flora and fauna on our section of the river to be left for those who may want or need to know, as the consequences of Global Warming play out in the future of the Hudson River.

At the juncture of river and human life is where the worst damage to the river begins. Dumping pollutants into the river was historically a convenient waste disposal solution that came under regulation but nevertheless is still accepted as a right of industry. Like the global accumulation of green house gases, rational concerns for the long term effects of river dumping have been suppressed and ignored for the sake of short term profit taking. This fourth goal of the Voluntary Stewardship model has the immediate purpose of raising environmental awareness of pollution of the River and degradation of

its ecology at the local level. Equally important is making a record of where this assault on the cleanliness of the river is taking place and who is dumping industrial pollution, also at the local level.

The antiquated compromise of tolerating a level of industrial pollution has to be replaced by laws and policies mandating and implementing Zero pollution of the Hudson River by industry.

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