

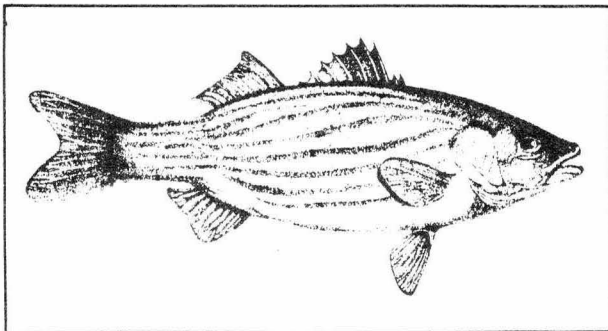
Dear Planet Drum Member,

Every year we send a special bonus publication to our members. Our surprise this year is REINHABIT THE HUDSON ESTUARY which was compiled and produced by New York area reinhabitants with some assistance from Planet Drum.

REINHABIT THE HUDSON ESTUARY is in the bundle format of individual essays, poetry, graphics, and posters that may be familiar to you from previous Planet Drum Books publications such as CONTINENT CONGRESS and NORTH PACIFIC RIM ALIVE. (One of these is still available for ordering, BACKBONE - THE ROCKIES.) In recent years bioregional groups in different places have developed their own bundles. We previously sent COYOTE magazine's "Sonoran Desert Bioregion" issue as a bonus publication. If you are interested in doing something like this for your life-place, or know of a group that can assemble information and carry out production of the bundle, please contact us to receive whatever assistance we can offer.

REINHABIT THE HUDSON ESTUARY offers an extraordinarily compelling vision. Can the human population in the watershed of the lower Hudson River, the environs of New York City that contain perhaps one-tenth of the people in the U.S. in one of their densest concentrations, ever be re-harmonized with the natural entities that made inhabitation there possible in the first place? Can New York actually rejoin the planet? If that inspired and necessary outcome ever takes place it will be through recognition of basic realities offered in this bundle. George Tukul's "Pages From a Design Notebook" is a milestone in practical bioregional planning in that it presents for the first time a sustainable approach for fulfilling basic human needs in the Hudson River area, a plan that should become public policy immediately. Thomas Berry's "The Lower Hudson River Basin as a Bioregional Community" should be taught in the public schools. The "Reinhabit the Hudson Estuary" poster delimits a geography for new political issues, ones descended from the successful popular protest against Consolidated Edison's attempt to divert Hudson water for electricity generation at Storm King Mountain, a site that is celebrated in Kirkpatrick Sale's poem.

Taste it again. New York as part of the planet, apple trees in the Big Apple. Is that too far-fetched? New York City may not be the principal cultural center that it once was. The burnt-out South Bronx is a classic example of Old Industrial Northeast die-back. But when die-back occurs in natural systems there is an unprecedented opportunity for the growth of new life, and if the people of the Lower Hudson Valley (including NYC) can adopt a bioregional and planetary perspective they can once again deserve recognition as residents of an authentically important place.



In Diversity,

Bob, Judy, Lori and Peter
for Planet Drum Foundation



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