



www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org

Autumn Newsletter

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc., is dedicated to preserving the health of the Niantic River Estuary, its Watershed and the natural beauty of the Oswegatchie Hills.



Winter Buffet & Holiday Cheer!

Our annual Fundraiser



Flanders Fish Market
and Restaurant

22 Chesterfield Road, East
Lyme, CT 06357

Friday eve!!

December 5, 2014

6:00pm-10:00pm

STR-STH will be doing something new and fun for our Fundraiser this year. We are having a Winter Buffet... Delicious treats from Flanders Fish, plus specialties and many buffet style dishes will be served. Don't forget our famous dessert bar with several of our "Members Best Treats" to keep us sweet.

LIVE "Dueling Auction" by Paul Formica and Dan Steward!!

The Big Hit from Last Year is Back!

LOOK FOR a separate flyer mailed to your house with Tickets and more details in early November...

\$30.00 per person

For info call Eileen O'Pasek at
860-439-1687

Plus Silent Auction & Raffle!

All items are donated and all money raised supports STR-STH programs.

Do some Holiday Shopping with us & help Save the River & Hills !!

Bring your friends! More tickets are available at the door! A glass of wine, beer & soda and dessert bar is included and a cash bar will be available.

11th Annual Kayak Regatta— “The Best Yet!”

The 11th Annual Kayak Regatta was honored to be attended by **Congressman Joe Courtney** who spoke of the beauty and importance of saving the Oswegatchie Hills, and of the Town, State and Federal Government working together to do so. Once again we opened this year with a Kayak Parade up the Niantic River lead by the Goshen Fire boat with hoses blasting to the Rt. 1 end of the river where the Denise and Tony Band entertained us from a balcony overlooking the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills. Clam Chowder donated by Flanders Fish Market and hot dogs from The Dock were distributed by volunteers to participants. This year Dan Steward and Paul Formica took to the water to Save the Hills! Short kayak & SUP races were held and a kayak/paddle and other donated items were given away.

Thanks to all our participants and volunteers for another successful event!



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Our two Auctioneers!!



STR-STH VP Deb Moshier-Dunn giving Congressman Courtney details about Saving the Hills at the Kayak Regatta

A Note from the President and Founder of STR-STH:

We recently got confirmation of our 2015 contract with the DEEP for the operation of the Niantic River Pumpout Program. This will be the 10th year of them paying for this successful program! We also have approval of a grant to provide 75% of the funding for a Welcome sign for the new railroad bridge over the Niantic River where the Niantic River joins the Bay. We are seeking approvals from Amtrak, the DEEP and the Coast Guard for its installation. We are hoping Amtrak will provide the installation labor and materials.

The Long Island Sound Study has released an updated Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for restoring and protecting the Long Island Sound over the next two decades. To review the Draft go to "Long Island Sound Study CCMP". Public input and comment are encouraged. Mention the importance of saving coastal areas like our Oswegatchie Hills!

Our new website is up and running, although we need to get the content updated. What a long process after having our website hijacked. You can see what we have so far at savetheriversavethehills.org. Love to hear what you think of it so far.

We currently have 251 Facebook "Likes". Facebook is generally up-to-date with what is going on for Save the River-Save the Hills. "Like" us and keep current!

Yours in the protection of the River & the Hills, *Fred Grimsey*

Kayak Regatta – 2014

Dear Members, Friends, Family and all who attended our 11th Annual Save The River-Save The Hills Kayak Regatta,

What a wonderful day! We have been getting fantastic feedback over the last few weeks. "It was the best ever" seems to be the consensus. The Kayak Parade led by the Goshen Fireboat started the Parade, while the music of The Denise and Tony Band played in the background. Thank you Captain Todd, your crew and Denise and Tony for leading our kayakers up the Niantic River in style. Flanders delicious Clam Chowder donated by Flanders Fish and "foot long" hot dogs donated by The Dock Restaurant were a big hit. Thank you both for supporting Save The River- Save The Hills. Drew Kenny and his crew Todd Ryan and Gary Wojcik cooked the dogs and ladled the chowder with a smile.

Our honored guest Congressman Joe Courtney accompanied by his legislative aide Tim Brown, was a special part of the event. He spoke in support of our goals and spent time talking with some participants. He is looking forward to kayaking at our event next year. Encouraging speeches were given by our 1st Selectmen, Paul Formica and Dan Steward. Also attending were Max Goldman, legislative aide to Senator Chris Murphy, and Jason Knight legislative aide to State Representative Ed Jutila.

The infamous kayak race by Dan Steward and Paul Formica with photo finish was enjoyed by all who watched. *Paul and Dan your unconditional support is amazing and your humor is contagious!*

Paddleboard, kayak and sailboat demonstrations involving Regatta guests was an added plus, thank you Three Belles Marina and Nehantic Paddleboards. **A surprise donation of \$500 was given to Save The River-Save The Hills by Nehantic Paddleboards at the event.** We so appreciate their generosity!

Thank you to all new members who joined that day and the current members who renewed - 34 in all. A special thanks to those who took photos especially the Northrup's who are professional photographers and our honorary members. Congressman Courtney drew the Kayak winning ticket - Stephanie Hughes Winner!



Thanks to everyone who came out to share a beautiful day on our beloved Niantic River!

Kayak Race Results: Men's Short: 1) Tom Cooper, 2) Rick Canovan, 3) Will Enan; Men's SUP: 1) Mike St. Patrick, 2) Christian Montoya Men's Long Kayak: 1) Mike Dunn, 2) Jay Sullivan, 3) Alex Nebelung. Women's Long Kayak: 1) Karen O'Leary, 2) Annette Montoya, 3) Deb Moshier-Dunn with Natalie! Women's Short Kayak: 1) Megan Keney, 2) Ank Deruiter, 3) Susan Armstrong.

Drawing Winners: Kayak and Paddles: Stephanie Hughes; Life Jacket: Karl Jens; White T-shirt: Corinne LaFleur; Black T-shirt: Thomas Cooper; Hat: Suzanne Young, James Russell; Beach Bag: Vincent Vento, JP O'Leary

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills!

Landmark's appeal of the Town of EL's Water-Sewer Commission's decision to not give 118,000 gallons/day of sewer capacity has been handed back to the Town for a decision on the final amount the Town is willing to give. Judge Cohn has turned down requests from both the Town and Landmark to add more info to the findings. The Town decided to allow 13,000 gal/day which is enough for roughly 90 units (vs. the 840 that Landmark proposed). The Judge seemed to point towards doubling it, which is still a bit of a "win" for us. Landmark would only be able to build 20% or so of the proposed units. The Water-Sewer Commission will meet at the end of this month. Stay tuned!

Water Quality Testing Program

Thanks to Fred who works tirelessly on the boats to get them ready, and our summer Pumpout workers this year (Thank you!), we have the Water Quality Testing boat out on the water. We are pleased to report that with the draught the levels of bacteria are very low in the upper River. The lower part of the River has been closed on and off for shellfishing because of bacteria levels. So always check with Ledge Light Health District's website on shellfishing to make sure your favorite area is safe to shellfish at the time when you go. Use www.ledgelighthd.org/shellfish-beds—it's an easy to read (even on your phone!) overview of the status of all local shellfishing areas.



Watershed Education Program

Our heartfelt Thanks to **Miss Paige Walstra** who asked her friends to donate to Save the River-Save the Hills instead of giving her a present for her 11th birthday!! She donated \$150.00 to STR-STH and presented us with the money at the Kayak Regatta. Paige is educating us that one person CAN make a difference! Thank you Paige!!



Paige (in blue kayak) battling her friends in the kid's race at the Kayak Regatta

Pumpout Boat Program

We are finishing up our 12th season of the Pumpout Program at the end of October. The boat is available on weekends only at this point in the season. Our Pumpout Boat can be contacted by calling the numbers for the boat: **287-2774 (phone) and VHF Channel 68**. Spread the word & remind your boater friends!

When winterizing your boat, please ask your marina if they follow "Green Marina" guidelines when cleaning and storing your boat. You can make a difference by asking the question! Also, if you are washing your own boat, wash it over grass so the dirty water doesn't end up in the storm drain and eventually into the River. Every bit counts!



*All Kayak Regatta photo credits for this newsletter go to Chelsea and Tony Northrup of **Northrup Photography** in Waterford. Check out some of their amazing pictures from around the world and around the corner at their Facebook page or www.northrapphotography.com.*



Winter Buffet & Holiday Cheer! December 6th 6-10pm

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☺ Fundraiser volunteers— call Eileen 439-1687
- ☺ Administration help - fun! (e.g., event planning, setting up and manning event tables, mailings) - call Eileen O'Pasek 439-1687.
- ☺ Board Members - Secretary, Treasurer positions are open!

Join us in any way you feel comfortable and take action to Save the River and the Hills!

www.SavetheRiverSaveTheHills.org

Save the River – Save the Hills, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) grassroots environmental organization based on the Niantic River Estuary in Waterford & East Lyme. We are dedicated to abating and preventing pollution of the river, its Watershed and advocating the preservation of Oswegatchie Hills.

To donate or become a member
clip and mail the form below, or call
Eileen O'Pasek @ 860-439-1687

Membership Chair Update

Dear Members and Friends,

It seems impossible that another year is almost at an end. Save the River- Save the Hills is always working hard to accomplish our goals. If you haven't renewed your membership **now is the time for your 2014 tax deductions!** Your support is so very important to this cause, so I ask you once again to please encourage family, friends and neighbors to join us.

Save the River-Save the Hills wants to thank and list all the new members that joined during our Kayak Regatta:

Susan & Barry Armstrong, Dan Beachy, Rob & P.J. Brewer, The Bruno Family, Kat Conte, Thomas Cooper, Marion Fitzpatrick, Patty Heenan, Conny & Laurie Jakoboski, Karl & Earl Jens, Sue Kinell, Bret Lewis, Lindy Lowe, Carol-Ann & Robert Myers, Roy Nelson, Jessica O'Sullivan, Karen O'Leary, Theodore Ryan, Tony Rose, Paul Trehern, Vincent Vento, Richard & Kathy Wood, Gregory Wojcik, and Suzanne Young.

The Regatta has become an important membership drive as well as an educational, enjoyable and traditional event. **Our Members are the Backbone of our Organization.** Thank you to all our wonderful members for your support and commitment to Save the River-Save the Hills!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership Chair

Membership & Other Contributions:

New Renewal

Basic Family \$20

River Keeper \$50

River Saver \$100

River Neptune \$250

River Neptune \$500

River Champion \$1000



Please make checks payable to:

STR-STH, Inc.

and mail to

Save the River-Save the Hills

P.O. Box 505

Waterford, CT 06385

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

(email will be used for Action Alerts for
STR-STH issues only)

Referred by:

All members receive our quarterly newsletters and one STR-STH membership sticker.

Note: first \$20.00 of any membership category goes to the general fund and is used as required for all programs. Additional amounts may be directed as below:

Water Quality (testing, education, pumpout programs) Legal Defense Fund General Fund

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

This Newsletter is printed on Recycled Paper