



www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org

July 2022

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Summer 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.

Teamwork Helps Keep the Niantic River Clean!

Save the River-Save the Hills would like to express our sincere appreciation to the towns of East Lyme and Waterford for contributing \$12,500 each toward the purchase of a new Pumpout Boat. The Pumpout Program partnership of STR-STH with the Towns, CT DEEP, the Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO), as well as area businesses, strengthens our efforts to protect the health of the Niantic River. Collecting the concentrated human waste from boats protects our coastal communities and their recreational use of the river, as well as the marine life of the Niantic River itself. The new boat was special ordered earlier this year and is scheduled to be delivered in September. We are still looking for an engine.



(Right to left) EL 1st Selectman Kevin Seery, Deb Moshier-Dunn, Jim Paganetti, Fred Grimsey (sitting) Eileen O'Pasek, Waterford 1st Selectman Rob Brule (pic by Anne Ogden)

The local donations will be used for the mandatory match for the Pumpout Program grant STR-STH received from CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) in January. The monies for the grant come from the Federal Clean Water Act funding (through the Environmental Protection Agency) that the state distributes to programs that focus on Water Quality. STR-STH would also like to thank CT DEEP, WELSCO and the towns for their ongoing annual operations support that keeps the Pumpout Program running. Each year the Pumpout crew pumps over 14,000 gallons of waste out of hundreds of boats during the May-October season. STR-STH looks forward to working with the Towns, CT DEEP and WELSCO for many years to come in our joint mission to keep the river clean.

With this partnership, the pumpout service has been provided free of charge in the Niantic River and Bay for over 20 years! It is against CT law to dump marine sewage in the Niantic River or Bay. Our team is only a call away to help our community through protecting the health of Niantic River. Do your part and call for a pumpout and spread the word to all boaters! (See page 2 for Pumpout Program updates.)

Upcoming Events:

- ☺ Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition booth at East Lyme Day—July 16, 3pm-9pm
- ☺ 19th Annual Kayak Regatta!—August 13, 10am-2pm
- ☺ STR-STH Annual Meeting—September 17 at Three Belles (stay tuned for more details)
- ☺ Annual Fundraiser at Flanders Fish—NOVEMBER 18—NEW DATE!!

“LIKE” our Facebook page or go out to our website at SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org and click the Facebook icon at the top of the Home page to stay up-to-date.



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The above referenced peeps in front of the Oswegatchie Hills (photo credit Anne Ogden)



Kayak Regatta!

Saturday, August 13
(raindate: Sunday Aug 14)
(Photo credit Debbie Beckwith)

Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Legal Update



Our Coalition continues to spread awareness about the need to preserve the remaining Oswegatchie Hills and the Niantic River estuary that the undeveloped coastal forest naturally protects from polluted runoff. As part of our partnership, Save the Sound's legal team continues to provide our legal defense strategy and support.

Here's an update from senior legal counsel Roger Reynolds: "After our recent court victory in October 2021 ordering the developer to provide environmental information, we are awaiting a final site plan application. We don't know whether the developer will continue with the same plan or, as they have indicated, proceed with a new larger footprint that goes outside the sewer district and into land previously pledged as open space. Either way, we will be fully prepared to act immediately." We look forward to hearing more from Roger at the Kayak Regatta.

Volunteer at our booth at East Lyme Day on Main Street July 16 from 3pm-9pm! Contact Suzanne Thompson at 860-662-1531. Stop by, even for an hour or two!

Pumpout Program—On the Niantic River & Bay—keeping them clean!

The 2022 Pumpout Program began its season in May with our skiff and will run each weekend until the end of October. June, July and August we will run Fridays through Monday and after Labor Day only on Saturdays and Sundays. We started a week earlier this year and will add extra days if the need is warranted. **The contact number for Pumpout boat is 860-287-2774, or Marine Channel 68.**

We thank our membership and sponsors who help fund the annual Operations and Maintenance of this program. Each year, we write a grant application through CT DEEP to operate. If our grant is approved, the federal Clean Vessel Act (CVA) will support 75% of our costs. For 2022, our request for funding was over \$40,000. The CT DEEP, which oversees the CVA program, approved our request and will fund the 75%. The remaining 25% is funded through the donations from our membership and sponsors, including the **generous donations from the Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO) and Boats, Inc. of Niantic** this year. We would also like to thank **The Niantic Dockominiums** for participating in the Pumpout Program each year by assisting us with the removal of over 14,000 gallons of concentrated marine waste annually.



The Crew: Nick Caruso and Captain Aiden Grimsey onboard the Pumpout skiff.

This year, The CVA awarded Save the River-Save the Hills \$75,000 toward the purchase of a much-needed boat. The new boat will cost over \$100,000 and the towns of East Lyme and Waterford have generously donated \$12,500 to help fill the gap. (See front page)

Thanks to all for your support! Enjoy a happy and safe boating season.

(Submitted by Pumpout Program Administrator Jim Paganetti)



It's Kayak Regatta Time!



Our 19th Niantic River Appreciation Kayak Regatta

Saturday, August 13 from 10am to 2pm! (raindate Sunday Aug 14)

Come enjoy a day on the Niantic River with friends!

Short, fun **Kayak Races** for
t-shirts and bragging'
rights!

Floating Dock with Demo
peddle kayaks & SUPs by
**Three Belles Outfitters &
Marina!**

Music by Bill Youell
and Matt Wimberger—
"The LowTiders!"

Free Hot Dogs
donated from
**Three Belles
Marina!**

Kayak Parade
Behind the **Goshen
Fire Boat!** (meet at
Sandy Point at
10am)



Free Clam
Chowder from
**Flanders Fish
Restaurant!**

Rent a Kayak or
SUP from **Three
Belles Outfitters** for
the Regatta & they
will donate a
percentage to
STR-STH!!

Launch and meet us at 10am at Sandy Point to get behind the Goshen Fire Boat for a kayak parade up the Niantic River. The Fire Boat will lead us up to Grimsey Beach where we will hear music from "The LowTiders" under the tent at 47 Oswegatchie Road while eating our free Hot Dogs and Clam Chowder. Around noon, we'll hear an update on STR-STH's programs and a legal update on the ongoing battle to Save the Hills. We will also have a dedication for Dan Steward as we place a memorial in the park. And we will hear from our local representatives—possibly even a Senator or Congressman. 1:00pm Short Kayak Races and 1:45pm our drawing for a Kayak—free for a member, make sure your membership is up to date!

JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY ON THE BEAUTIFUL NIAN TIC RIVER !

Watershed Education—STR-STH Board Members out and about!



"What goes on the ground goes into the Sound," STR-STH Board Member Lily Glynos explains why it's important to keep nitrogen and other pollution out of our streams and rivers at Waterford Beach Day. The annual event, organized by Waterford High School for the district's elementary students, covers a wide range of water-related science activities. Lily also is a Waterford schools graduate!

STR-STH Member Anabel Frish and Board Member Mark Sperry at Earthfest CT in Niantic on June 11, 2022 with our Enviroscope—ready to educate children on what happens to all that stuff on lawns, roads and sidewalks when it rains. Our coastal watershed model allows children to learn through play. We also gave out grocery bags so the children could carry our "Keep the Niantic River Clean" message home to their families.



 Find us on
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Membership News

Dear Save the River-Save the Hills Members,

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! We sincerely appreciate all of your support during these very challenging times. However, due to the rise in costs for printing and mailing we are asking for your assistance once again. Please stay current with your annual membership contribution. (Enclosed envelope for your convenience). Don't risk not receiving future mailings.

Save The River-Save The Hills is proud of the work we've accomplished and the goals we set for protecting the Niantic River and its watershed. We could not do our work Without Your Support!! Our members are the Backbone and Heart of Save the River-Save the Hills. We hope to see you September 17 at our Annual Meeting at Three Belles Marina.

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership and Fundraising Chair

P.S. - Please remember to match your contribution if your employer offers it. And if you are a Charter Oak Credit Union member, remember they will match your contribution in August—up to \$500!

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 for the preservation of the Oswegatchie Hills.

For more information visit our Facebook page or our website at:

www.SaveTheRiverSaveTheHills.org

Cut along here to send in with your check OR visit our website to donate through PayPal. Monthly donations are very welcome!

Membership & Other Contributions:

___ New ___ Renewal

___ Basic Family \$25

___ River Keeper \$50

___ River Saver \$100

___ River Protector \$250

___ River Neptune \$500

___ River Champion \$1000+

Matching Member ___ Company ___

All members receive our quarterly newsletters.

Note: first \$25.00 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

Please make checks payable to:

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.

P.O. Box 505

Waterford, CT 06385

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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

Referred by:

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

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