



Winter—Spring 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.

www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org

A Message from our Founder & President

Thank you all for your continued support of Save the River-Save the Hills! Seems incredible that we are in our 17th year of advocating for the health and safety of our River and surrounding Hills. For 2018, we are looking forward to a busy season. This will be the second year of our participation in Save the Sound’s Unified Water Study of Long Island Sound embayments. We also plan to add a rework of the bacterial study we did 3 years ago. This work was suspended for two reasons: the continuing drought and state budget problems which terminated the free lab work provided by the Department of Health Laboratory in Rocky Hill. We anticipate a reduced coverage study of the river in parallel with the Unified Water Study. STR-STH will have to pay lab costs because of the lack of state monies. But we are looking forward to resuming these studies of the Niantic River this Spring.

Some good news: 1) We have hired Suzanne Thompson part-time to help keep our studies going and to kick-start a Watershed Education Program (see page 2). We are waiting to hear about a grant she has applied for. Stay tuned on that! Plus, 2) we are preparing a new (to us) pumpout boat to replace the 14 year old Carolina skiff. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has arranged the donation of a 2 year old boat to our program. We are in the process of checking it all out and getting ready to launch the 2018 pumpout program that starts on the Friday before Memorial Day. The pumpout boat will be working on the Niantic River each Friday–Monday from May 25th through Labor Day weekend, then Saturdays & Sundays through November 1st. Spread the word!

Yours in Saving the River and the Hills, *Fred Grimsey*



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Join us at Earth Day 2018 on April 21st 10am-2pm, McCooks Park

2018 STR-STH Sponsored Events:

- ☺ **Earth Day 2018! April 21st 10am-2pm McCook Park (see flyer inside)**
- ☺ **Cuatro de Mayo Open House @ Perennial Harmony! May 4th, 6pm-8pm**
- ☺ **15th Annual Kayak Regatta (1 week earlier!) August 11th 10am-2pm**
- ☺ **Annual Fundraiser at Flanders Fish—December 2018**

“LIKE” our Facebook page or go out to our website at SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org and click the Facebook icon at right to stay up-to-date on what’s going on.
(You don’t have to have a Facebook account to see our Facebook page!)



Looking forward to warmer days, getting our pumpout boat in the water and enjoying the Kayak Regatta!

STR-STH Program Updates:

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills!

CFE continues to represent us in ongoing legal battles to protect and preserve the remaining 236 acres of undeveloped, unprotected Oswegatchie Hills directly adjoining the existing OHNP.

Roger Reynolds, CFE Chief Legal Director, provides us these Legal Updates:

1) Zoning appeal to Superior Court

“After over a year of inactivity on this case, the Court held a status conference on November 27, 2017, in which the Court addressed Landmark’s anticipated response to CFE’s motion to dismiss the appeal. Follow-up telephone conferences were held in December, January and February with the judge. No further calls are scheduled and we expect a decision on our motion to dismiss Landmark’s appeal in the next several months.”

2) Sewer Appeal to Appellate Court

“The sewer appeals (both our appeal and East Lyme’s appeal) have just been scheduled to be argued in the Appellate Court before the panel of Judges DePentima, Alvord and Bear on April 10, 2018. The case is fully briefed. We will argue that in overturning the Sewer Commission’s decision to limit the amount of sewage capacity granted to Landmark, the Superior Court judge improperly usurped East Lyme’s authority to make decisions on allocation of this scarce and environmentally important resource. The cases are A.C. 39804 and 39806. The two appeals are the second and third cases in the morning session. Arguments take place at the Appellate Court at 75 Elm St in Hartford and are open to the public.”

STR-STH and The Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve will have representatives attending the hearing in a show of support for the town’s Water/Sewer decision. This will be a big decision in our many year quest to Save the Hills! **Please remember that STR-STH is paying for Roger’s expertise when you send in your membership renewal this year!**

Watershed Education

We have applied for a Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT) Environmental Grant to support our Watershed Education program. The Niantic River Watershed Behavior Change proposal engages science students at the 3 public high schools in the watershed – East Lyme (including Salem), Montville and Waterford, in spring and fall workshops to research and explore the topic and to develop small public outreach campaigns over the summer. Fall science classes will again pick up the program and topic, and East Lyme HS will host a workshop where students can present their papers, posters and findings. The long-term plan is for this watershed-based collaboration to be incorporated into the schools’ science/environmental classes and clubs. Wish us luck on getting the Grant!!!

Pumpout Boat Program

We will start our 16th season of the Pumpout Program Memorial Day Weekend. The boat is available Friday through Mondays from Memorial Day to Labor day, then Saturdays & Sundays until Nov 1st. Spread the word—the Niantic River and the entire Long Island Sound is a No-Discharge Zone by order of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Our Pumpout Boat can be contacted by calling the cell number for the boat: **860-287-2774 (phone)**. Many thanks to the State of CT DEEP and the towns of East Lyme and Waterford for fully funding the pumpout program! We pay are able to pay our hardworking deck hands though the grant, but tips are always appreciated!!



Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Update

Yes, we've been talking about the Oswegatchie Hills and the Niantic River!

In January, Chris Cryder, Connecticut Fund for the Environment's Land Manager, and I were live on Morning MoJo with Ali on WCNI 90.9 FM, all-volunteer public radio on Connecticut College's campus. We explained how efforts to protect Plum Island in Long Island Sound and Oswegatchie Hills in East Lyme go hand-in-hand to preserve natural treasures for the sake of terrestrial and aquatic species, our quality of life and for future generations. Stay tuned for radio host Allison Kaufman's first hike of Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve (OHNP).

Our 5-minute Coalition video also caught the eye of many participants at the 2018 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference on March 18. Over 500 land trust members and other conservationists attend this annual event, full of workshops and presentations for the state's land trust community.



CT Land Conservation Council steward Humphrey Tyler encourages participants to watch our video at the annual conference at Wesleyan University on March 18.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to watch our video on CFE/Save the Sound's YouTube channel, and to sign on to our Coalition. The easiest way to find the video is the link on our home page, www.savetheriversavethehills.org

Please let me know if you have ideas of more places we can show our video!

Suzanne Thompson, Save Oswegatchie Hills Outreach Coordinator, sthompson@ctenvironment.org, 860-662-1531



Morning MoJo host Alison Kaufman with Chris Cryder, CFE, and Suzanne Thompson, Coalition outreach coordinator, in the WCNI 90.9 FM radio studio. You can listen to their Jan. 23, 2018 interview on Friends of OHNP website at <http://www.oswhills.org/current-news.html>

Thank You to our Fundraiser Donors and Sponsors!

Three Belles Outfitters & Marina
 Foxwoods
 Cordette Grimsey
 Deb Moshier-Dunn
 Mike Dunn
 Boathouse Blues Band
 Capt. Ed & First Mate Holly Riozzi
 Flanders Fish Market and
 Restaurant
 Laura & Nat Alcamo
 Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra
 Pequot Golf Club
 Scott Leahy
 Eileen & Ken O'Pasek
 The Garde Arts Center
 Smith Acres

Rita Spring
 Petie Reed
 David Robinson
 Lynn Schlachter
 Liz Caruso
 Tony Sheridan
 Fred Grimsey
 Suzanne Thompson
 Deb & Ed Guerra
 Leona Wasniewski
 Children's Museum of SECT
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 Illianos – East Lyme
 Goodshop
 Dominion Foundation

That Look Salon
 Mystic Seaport
 Anytime Fitness – EL & Salem
 Outdoor Lifestyles, Drew Kenny
 Fran Violante
 David Fasulo
 Denise Thompson
 Artisan Framing & Gallery
 Black Hall Outfitters
 Smith Acres
 Divine Wine Emporium
 CT River Quest Cruise Boat
 Denali Outdoor
 Niantic Plumbing
 Perennial Harmony Garden
 Center

Benjamin & Moore & Co
 George & Emily Haines
 Kathy & Ted Jablowski
 Beth & Ken Shluger
 Saybrook Point Inn
 Kelly Leahy Radding
 Patsy & Rich Vincenti
 Michael Smith
 Dawn & Henry Isaacson
 Deborah Cromwell
 Mark & Anabel Spery
 Mae & Mike Hills
 Lisa & Rick Moors
 Ryan & Michelle Williams

Remember to thank them the next time you see them!



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 Oswegatchie Hills.

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☉ Help with our events (Earth Day or Cuatro de Mayo or Kayak Regatta!)
- ☉ Volunteer for our Water Quality Study!
- ☉ Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscape
- ☉ Administration - helping with mailings, etc.

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

Membership News

Our December Fundraiser was a fun and fantastic event. We would like to thank all who attended and supported us. Thank you to all who participated in our “Sponsor Program” with Service Items, Ticket and Monetary donations. Being a Sponsor is a major part of the success of our Fundraiser.

We have a mystery... “R U the Match?” We are so fortunate for those members who enlist their companies “Matching Programs” to help support Save the River-Save the Hills. Some of the companies do not give us the name of the donor. We are so grateful to you and would like to recognize and thank you. If you are “The Match” please let us know for our records. We would also like to ask other members to consider their Matching Programs which would be used to help support the Save the River–Save the Hills mission. Thank you all for your Generous Support!! **Our members remain the Backbone of STR-STH!!!**

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

Membership & Other Contributions:

New Renewal

Basic Family \$20

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 \$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

Please make checks payable to:

Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.

P.O. Box 505

Waterford, CT 06385

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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

Referred by: