



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.

www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org



Wine, Cheese & Song Holiday Party!

Our annual Fundraiser



Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant

Thursday eve

December 8, 2011

22 Chesterfield Road, East Lyme, CT 06357

6:00pm-9:00pm

Yummy Appetizers plus 3 Varieties of Pasta including a Flanders Fish Signature Dish featured in our Keepsake Book!
New this year: Light Dessert, Coffee or Tea

Entertaining Song by The Denise and Tony Band!!

The enclosed tickets are your reservation! Please return the LEFT portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope by Nov 30th.

\$25.00 per person

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

New: LIVE & Silent Auctions!

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 or soda is included and a cash bar will be available.

Honors Granted to STR-STH at Kayak Regatta!

The 8th Annual Kayak Regatta was honored with an Official Statement of Recognition from Governor Dannel P. Malloy, an Official Citation of Congratulations from the CT General Assembly, read to the gathering by State Representative Ed Jutila, and a letter of welcome from Senator Richard Blumenthal! The picture perfect day for the event accented the re-dedication of the creation of Niantic River Appreciation Day as the 3rd Saturday in August each year for the towns of East Lyme and Waterford. East Lyme First Selectman Paul Formica and Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward signed the Declaration for each of the towns at the event.

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

(See page 2 for the winners of our regatta and our free give-aways!)



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Fred, Paul Formica and Dan Steward addressing the 2011 Kayak Regatta participants

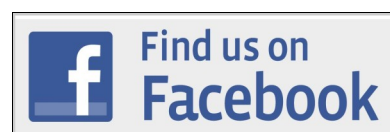
See enclosed flyer for details of our event AND about the sale of the Keepsake Book!! Please feel free to post it at work or give it to a friend!

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

Halloween has come and gone and the developer (Glen Russo) and the courts seem to be still playing Trick or Treat. Now I know how Hamlet felt when he complained about "... the Prince's contumely and the law's delay." We had hoped to have a ruling by now on Russo's third appeal but we are still waiting.

The bacterial pollution data gathering on the Upper Niantic River that we did this Spring, Summer & Fall is done for the year and a report is being prepared. Preliminary raw data has been given to Don Landers of the Water Quality Monitoring Committee of the Nitrogen Workgroup of NRWAC (Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee). We will post the final report from our findings on our Facebook page and website in the next few weeks. We will also post the Appeal decision as soon as we have it.

To find us on Facebook, go to our website, www.savetheriver-savethehills.org, look in the lower left hand corner and press the "Like" button. If you have a Facebook account, it will bring you to our Facebook page. If you haven't ventured out into Facebook yet, you can still monitor our postings in that window on our front page of our website.



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

STR-STH's Kayak Regatta Sponsors/Donors:

Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant — gift certificates;
Groton Wireless Zone—Bluetooth Headsets;
Deb Moshier-Dunn & Mike Dunn—Kayak & Flotation Device

Kayak Regatta Winners—Great Job Everyone!

The long kayak winners: men - **Jay Sullivan**, Waterford, (defending his title) and women - **Rose Marie LaFleur**, Waterford (also keeping her title).

The small kayak race winners: women - **Danielle LaFleur**, men – **John Paganetti**.

Each received a STR-STH's T-shirt along with their bragging rights.

Kayak Regatta Free Drawing Winners—Congratulations to all!

Kayak – STR-STH member Kathy Taylor, Waterford; **Personal Flotation device** – John Starrett, Middletown ; **STR-STH T-shirt** – Pat Gaffey, East Lyme ; **STR-STH Hat** – Corinne LaFleur, Waterford ; **STR-STH Beach Bag** – Rose LaFleur, Waterford ;
STR-STH Lunch Bag – Trux Broadhead, Waterford

Gifts & Gift Certificates:

Wireless Zone Bluetooth headsets — Danielle LaFleur, Rob Walworth, Marc Hansen, Jr.
Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant – Garrett Kuhn, Waterford

STR-STH Program Updates...

Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills

STR-STH is still awaiting the court ruling on the developer's 3rd appeal for building in the Oswegatchie Hills. We were hoping to hear by the time we mailed this out to you. However, we have been successful in getting the town to order a Cease and Desist Order on the developer doing anything that requires a permit that he has not applied for. **Watch our Facebook page and/or our website for the upcoming decision!!**

Watershed Education Program

“Joe Pye Day” at Perennial Harmony, Route 1 in Waterford has been moved to the week of Earth Day in April (around the 22nd). Book signings and music will accompany food and fun to give STR-STH a new Spring Event!

The Enviroscope Model remains available for public educational use. ELHS's AP environmental class is currently using it. The accompanying curriculum can be modified for use for any grade level—even adults! If you know of a school or organization that can use it or if you would like to borrow it yourself to teach people (neighbors who are overusing fertilizers for example), please contact Deb at 444-9247. You can use it yourself or ask Deb to teach your group/class.



Our Enviroscope Model—if you know of a teacher or class who would like to borrow it or have us go to their school to teach with it, please let us know.

Water Quality Testing Program

As Fred mentioned on page 2, he is done testing for this year. The boat is in dry dock, winterized for the season. We have correlated our findings to rain levels for the 3 days previous (taken from USGS records) as well as tidal flows. The resulting spreadsheets are being shared with NRWAC in the hopes of coming up with some guidelines we can share with the public and the towns so that decisions can be made about how to get the word out when the waters have high bacterial counts.

RESULTS: We have had some very high bacterial count readings after rain events, especially at low tide. It is known that we can't shellfish after 1 inch rain events because of pollution in the River. Perhaps the towns should also post a warning about swimming, tubing and other water contact sports? The towns CAN legally do this per the “Home Rule Act” in CT.

Pumpout Boat Program

Another successful Pumpout Season came to the end of operations October 31. The boat is being winterized and stored this month. Operations will begin Memorial Day weekend, 2012. We would like to once again thank the towns of East Lyme and Waterford for funding the monies not covered by the program from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. **Remember that the Niantic River and Niantic Bay and all of Coastal Connecticut remain a No-Discharge Zone.**

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!

Wine, Cheese & Song Holiday Party! December 8th 6-9pm



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 - River Safety Chair, Legislative Liaison Chair positions are open!

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

www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.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 embarks on it's 10th year as we work hard to accomplish our goals! If you haven't made your membership renewal this year, now is the time for 2011 tax deductions! Your support is so important to this cause, so I ask you once again to encourage family, friends, and neighbors to join us. A great introduction to Save the River- Save the Hills would be at our annual fundraiser: **Wine, Cheese and Song at Flanders Fish, Thursday, December 8th, 2011 from 6:00-9:00pm**. Great food, fun, holiday gifts and information about our organization in a festive setting. We will be selling tickets at the door, but reservations are **strongly suggested** as last year was a huge success!

Please **send the left part of the enclosed tickets with your payment/donation by Nov 30th** or call Eileen O'Pasek at 860-439-1687. Your contributions, whether volunteer or financial, are the backbone of this organization. Thank you!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership Chair

Membership & Other Contributions:

- New Renewal
- Basic Family \$20 (newsletters, calendar of events, STR-STH membership sticker)
- River Keeper \$50 (all above plus STR-STH bottle holder)
- River Saver \$100 (all above plus STR-STH green bag)
- River Neptune \$250 (all above plus hat or visor)
- River Neptune \$500 (all above plus 2 tickets to Wine, Cheese & Song!)
- River Champion \$1000 (all the above and our eternal gratitude!!)

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

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

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:

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