



# 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](http://www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org)



## Wine, Pasta & Fun Holiday Party!

Our annual Fundraiser



**Flanders Fish Market  
and Restaurant**

**Friday eve!!**

**December 6, 2013**

**22 Chesterfield Road, East  
Lyme, CT 06357**

**6:00pm-10:00pm**

***New this year: Cupcakes from "Cupcakes and Flying Hearts"!  
Yummy Appetizers plus 3 Varieties of Pasta including a  
Flanders Fish Signature Dish featured in our Keepsake Book***

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

**You gotta see this, folks!**

The enclosed tickets are your reservation! Please return the LEFT portion with your payment in the enclosed envelope by Nov 27th.

\$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.***



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Our two Auctioneers!!

## 10th Annual Kayak Regatta—Fun on the Water!

The 10th Annual Kayak Regatta was honored to be opened this year with a Kayak Parade up the Niantic River lead by the Goshen Fire boat with hoses blasting! The parade brought kayakers north up 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. Paul Formica updated us on the status of the fight for the Hills and Dan Steward, Andrea Stillman and Ed Jutila all spoke of the beauty and importance of saving the Oswegatchie Hills, to keep this pristine area clean and available for all to enjoy. Short kayak 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!**



The Goshen Fire Boat  
Leads the Kayak  
Regatta!!

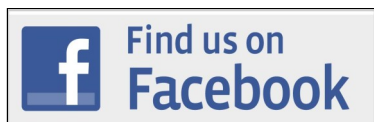
## A Note from the President and Founder of STR-STH:

Sadly the "Save the Hills" part of our message continues with a vengeance. Many thanks to our loyal friends and members for the continued support of our Legal Defense Fund used to provide legal support for our ongoing activity as Interveners in Landmark Developers attempt to build an outrageous mess in the Hills. See a legal synopsis (right) FYI.

Our other activities continue:

- 1) We together with the Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve have been working with Audubon Connecticut to have the Hills designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The designation depends on the fact that the Hills are recognized as a prime stopover for migratory birds (spring and fall). Thanks to David Hughes of Wild Birds Unlimited in East Lyme for coordinating inputs to the website [www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com), where Birders can post their logs in the internet. (His wonderful little store at 190 Flanders Rd in Niantic is a great gift shop for nature loving folks!)
- 2) We closed the 2013 Pumpout boat season last week. It continues to grow with more boaters each year helping to keep the River clean.
- 3) Our Water Quality Monitoring Program continued with Bacterial Beachwater collection on the Upper River. An extremely dry summer resulted in low to zero reading of Enterococci Bacteria most of the summer underlying our cautions to avoid water contact activity after a heavy rainfall. A full report will appear on our website...
- 4) Our website continues to be an issue. Our URL was taken over by foreign company. So we have moved it to [www.savetheriversavethehills.org](http://www.savetheriversavethehills.org) (no hyphen). If you can help us create our new website, please contact Deb at 860-444-9247. Facebook is up-to-date, "Like" us!

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



**"Like" us on Facebook to stay up-to-the-minute on Public Hearings, our events and news about The Niantic River!!**

**Friends of the Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve Benefit!**  
featuring music by *Boathouse Blues Band* playing Blues and Classic Rock and other bands To Be Determined. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Saturday, January 25, 7:00p, American Legion, Niantic**

## 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, 2014. We would like to once again thank the towns of East Lyme and Waterford for funding the expenses not covered by the program from the Connecticut Department of Energy & 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!

# STR-STH Program Updates...

## Legal Defense Fund – Help Us Save Oswegatchie Hills!

We thought it would be a good idea to give our members a **Legal Case History Synopsis** so we can all understand the history of **Landmark Development, LLC's plans for Oswegatchie Hills**:

- Case # 1 - Application for 894 units - Town denied in 2001; Judge Quinn upheld Town on 9/3/04.
- Case # 2 - 352 units for "Phase 1" - Town denied in 2004. The Friends, Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc. and the Town filed briefs 1/06 opposing Landmark's appeal. Motion by Landmark to overturn the denial by the zoning commission was denied by Judge Elliot Prescott on February 1, 2008.
- Case # 3 - 840 units – "Partially" approved 12/05. The Zoning Commission re-zoned as "Affordable" ONLY the area within the sewer shed and rejected Landmark's proposed text amendments. This action was appealed by Landmark 12/05 and remanded (see status below) to the zoning commission on a 2011 decision by Judge Frazzini. On 3/29/06, the Niantic River Gateway Commission rejected this re-zoning by the East Lyme Zoning Commission.
- Case # 4 - 1720 units, submitted 1/06. Zoning Commission Public hearing was opened April 6, 2006. Strong testimony was provided by Attorney General Blumenthal and others. Application was subsequently withdrawn by the developer...
- Case # 5- 1720 units if Sewer (or 1548 units if septic). Public Hearing opened on 7/12/07. Strong testimony by AG Blumenthal, Don Gerwick, PE and others. Denied by Zoning Commission, then appealed. Judge Frazzini made some indication that he would like to handle the appeal of Case #4 & 5. This appeal is on hold pending resolution of Case #3.
- 2013 Status Judge Frazzini recused himself; case now with Judge Berger. Landmark has appealed a 2013 denial by the Sewer Commission for capacity for 840 units on the hilltop (as proposed in Case #3). The zoning commission has amended the Affordable Regulations per Frazzini's remand, and a public hearing that was scheduled for 10/17/13 for Landmark's request to rezone the site Affordable was cancelled because Landmark withdrew its application after the Town reminded them that per Frazzini a site plan needed to be submitted first. **December 6th is date of hearing for Water-Sewer appeal.**

~~~~~ **LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO STAY UP-TO-DATE!!!!** ~~~~~

## Watershed Education Program

The local Girl Scout Troop 63443 is borrowing our Enviroscope (pictured right) to educate the girls about how a Watershed works. It's fun and effective and the kids LOVE playing with it! If you know of a school, group or Troop who would like to borrow it, please call or text Deb at 914-456-3069. The curriculum comes with it—very easy to use!



*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.*

# Wine, Pasta & Fun Holiday Party! 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, River Safety Chair, Legislative Liaison Chair positions are open!

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

[www.SavetheRiver-SavetheHills.org](http://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 is always working hard to accomplish our goals. If you haven't renewed your membership **now is the time for your 2013 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. As you read in the **President's message** this problem is **current and ongoing**. The Story is not over. Additional information will be available at our Save the River-Save the Hills annual Fundraiser: **Wine, Pasta and Fun at Flanders Fish, Friday December 6, from 6-10pm.** Many appetizers, pasta dinner, and an amazing dessert bar. A new twist this year. Our selectmen **Paul Formica** and **Dan Steward** will be our **"dueling auctioneers"** competing to auction some fabulous items. We will be selling tickets at the door, but reservations are **strongly suggested** as past years have been huge successes. **Holiday shopping at its best! Please join us!**

Please send the left part of ticket with your payment/donation by Nov 27, or call Eileen O'Pasek at 860-439-1687. Your contributions and support, whether volunteer or financial are the backbone of our organization.

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.