



# 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.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org](http://www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org)



**Inside this issue:**

Note from President Fred Grimsey	2
Winners of the Kayak Regatta Day	2
Legal Defense Program Update—the latest	3
Watershed Education Program	3
Water Quality & Pumpout Programs	3
Membership Update Volunteer Opportunities	4
Membership/Donation Form	4

*CT Fund for the Environment (CFE) has taken the fight to Save the Hills to a whole new level!! See the re-print of the front page of their newsletter inside - PLUS their interview of our President Fred!*

## Winter Buffet & Holiday Cheer!



Our annual Fundraiser

**Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant**      Friday evening!!

**December 4, 2015**

22 Chesterfield Road,  
East Lyme, CT 06357

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

We are having our popular 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.

***Bid on a beautiful Kayak donated by Three Belles Marina!  
LIVE "Dueling Auction" by Senator Paul Formica and  
First Selectman Dan Steward!!***

Find your Tickets and more details on the flyer enclosed.

\$30.00 per person if you send in your payment and tickets (\$35 at door)  
Kids \$15.00

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.*

**If you have an item to donate or want to sponsor an auction item, please call Eileen!!**

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

### Special Thanks to the Kenny & Ford Families!!!

Talk about "Paying it Forward" - Drew & Stephanie Kenny have taken the idea to a whole new level for STR-STH! At our Fundraiser last winter, the Kenny's won at live auction the Boat House Blues Band party. They decided to use the band to create ANOTHER fundraiser for STR-STH! On September 20th, they teamed up with Karin and Richard Ford and had a block party with lots of donated items for raffle and food and fun. They raised almost \$2500 for STR-STH!!! Thanks again!!

If you are looking for landscaping work or design, Drew owns and operates *Outdoor Lifestyles*—a full-service landscape company. (860)575-4612 or [outdoorlifestylesct.com](http://outdoorlifestylesct.com)



**Our very popular Auctioneers!!**



**Boat House Blues Band rockin' the Block Party on Calkins Road to help Save the Hills!!**

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

The good news is the support of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment in the battle to Save Oswegatchie Hills. (See insert re-reprint of their Summer Newsletter). The not so good news is the Appeal of the EL Zoning Commission's recent ruling. This will cause increases in our legal costs. (What else is new?!) Please support our December Fundraiser—as a Sponsor of one of our Live or Silent Auction items and/or as a participant in the event itself. Our legal costs continue cutting into our efforts to fight River Pollution.

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

### Kayak Regatta – 2015 – Our 12th!!

A record number of supporters turned out for this year's annual Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta! The kayaks paraded behind the Goshen Fireboat's waterfall spray up to Point Comfort where the music of Denise and Tony Band and Geoff Kaufman led the festivities.

Retired Senator Andrea Stillman was honored by State Senator Paul Formica with a framed award signed by many of her colleagues, a certificate from US Senator Richard Blumenthal presented by Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward and an engraved frame by STR-STH President Fred Grimsey for her support of our organization over the years.

Roger Reynolds, Legal Director of Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound, which has partnered with STR-STH and The Friends in protecting the Oswegatchie Hills, assured the crowd that his organization will continue to lead the legal charge to achieve permanent protection for this unique property from development.

"This is an environmentally destructive proposal that will destroy the Hills and pollute the wetlands and Niantic River Estuary," he said. "We hope the developer will stop fighting and start focusing on the best way to assess the land's fair market value to support a conservation swap or purchase. If not, though, we are in this fight for the long haul."

Senator Formica and East Lyme Deputy First Selectman Kevin Seery also had optimistic words to share about saving the Hills. East Lyme Selectwoman Holly Hayes Cheeseman also attended. Paddleboard, kayak and sailboat demonstrations involving Regatta guests was an added plus, thank you Three Belles Marina and Nehantic Paddleboards.



*Geoff Kaufman serenading*



*Roger Reynolds addressing Kayakers*

Delicious clear broth Clam Chowder donated by Flanders Fish and "foot long" hot dogs donated by The Dock Restaurant were consumed in record numbers by our hungry participants. Volunteers Drew & Stephanie Kenny cooked the dogs and ladled the chowder with a smile. Thank you once again for supporting Save the River- Save the Hills and our causes!!

**Thank you to all new members who joined that day (18 new members!) and the current members who renewed! Thanks also to the many volunteers who help make this day so memorable for all who attend!**

**Race Winners:** And the Kayak Race Winners are...1) Woman's Short Boat: Rose LaFleur!! Megan Keeny (2nd), Tori Isaacson (3rd), Maddy Myers (4th) 2) Men's Short Boat: Dave LaFleur!! Jay Sullivan (2nd), Tom Cooper (3rd); 3) Stand-up Board (SUP) Kids: Luke Vincenti!! Maddy Myers (2nd) 4) Men's Long Boat: Jay Sullivan!! Mike Riggio (2nd) 5) SUP Open Class: Mike Dunn!! Brian Vincenti (2nd), Tori Isaacson (3rd)



*Dan Steward, Andrea Stillman & Paul Formica*



*Pic courtesy of Marion Fitzpatrick*

**Drawing Winners:** Kayak and Paddles (donated by Mike & Deb –Thanks!!) – Michael Riggio; Life vest – Anne Marie and Joe Klim; Facial Cleanser from Skin Care Studio – Terri Carboni (Thank you Terri!) – Kevin Seery; STR-STH Hat – Bea Frish; STR-STH Beach Bag- Jean Bowlen; White STR-STH Tshirt – Skip and Robin Maillett; Blue STR-STH tshirt – Jeremy and Emily Myers; Dry Bag – Michael Harney.



*Aly Myers and Natalie Dunn—new kayakers!*

# STR-STH Program Updates...

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

Our focus is two fold: 1) the latest Zoning Application & 2) Water-Sewer.

1) The latest decision by the Town Zoning Commission conditionally approved the Application for 840 units, “with restrictions”. These restrictions include limiting any potential zone change to the Town-defined sewer district which would make it very hard for the entire project to proceed. It also requires the developer to finally provide environmental information and to meet environmental requirements, which they have so far failed to do. The developer is appealing that decision. CFE has taken on the intervener position for us and is asking the court to dismiss the developer’s appeal, or alternatively, to order that the preliminary site plan be denied altogether based on the developer’s failure up to this point to provide complete and accurate environmental information.

2) The Water-Sewer proceedings continue as the Judge has allowed Landmark’s attorney to depose EL Town staff . The developer is questioning why his project was denied while others were approved. Our standing has always been that this is a very environmentally sensitive site and deserves special consideration. Our attorney Jason Wescott continues to work on the Water-Sewer case. Please continue to give generously to our Legal Defense Fund as this is an ongoing battle!!

## Water Quality Program

To help keep our waters clean, we are having another “Clean-up of Latimer Brook Day” on Saturday, November 14th from 10:00am to 12 noon. East Lyme High School’s AP Environmental class led by teacher Laura Ashburn will join us to clean up the mounds of trash behind Tritown around Latimer’s Brook. In past years we have gathered over 20 black bags of garbage in the 2-3 hours that we spend collecting it. That’s 20 bags of garbage that won’t make its way to the Niantic River!

## Watershed Education Program—educate yourself!

On Oct 24th the Long Island Sound Study, a coalition of the US EPA, the CT DEEP and NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, nonprofit environmental groups and community and business organizations released its new “Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan” to guide restoration of Long Island Sound for the next 2 decades. The original plan was released 20 years ago. The updated plan takes into consideration Climate Change and pollution management. (See Judy Benson’s article in The Day copied on the back of the CFE article in this packet.) Here are some highlights from the goals of the plan: 1) reducing beach closures due to sewage by 50%, 2) restoring 3000 acres of coastal habitat, 3) **conserving an additional 4000 acres of open space in CT** and 3000 in NY, 4) improving water quality to support eelgrass. It also highlights Pumpout Programs as a significant help to decrease nitrogen in the Sound!

## Pumpout Boat Program

We are finishing up our 13th 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, soapy, “painty” water doesn’t end up in the storm drain and eventually into the River. Every bit counts!

*All photo credits for this newsletter go to Debbie Beckwith of East Lyme and Deb Moshier-Dunn, VP of Save the River-Save the Hills unless otherwise noted.*



# 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

[www.SavetheRiverSaveTheHills.org](http://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 we are past our 12th Kayak Regatta and working on the December 4th Fundraiser already! Save the River- Save the Hills is always working hard to accomplish our goals. If you haven't renewed your membership and contributions **now is the time for your 2015 tax deductions!** Your support is so very important to this cause, so I ask you once again to also encourage family, friends & neighbors to join us, both as members and at our events.

Another opportunity to help is being a Sponsor! Help fund new and different items to make this a banner year as we work with CFE to Save the River & Save the Hills! SEE ENCLOSED FORM .

The Regatta has become an important membership drive as well as an educational, enjoyable and traditional event. And our *Winter Buffet and Holiday Cheer!* event is a great time for our members to get together, enjoy each other's company while raising monies to support our causes. **Our Members are the Backbone of our Organization.** Thank you to **all** our wonderful members and volunteers 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

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

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: