



www.SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org

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.



"Impressions of Oswegatchie Hills"

Artist Kelly Leahy Radding—Gallery Opening!

Fall Benefit for STR-STH

Artisan Framing and Gallery— 293 Main Street, Niantic
Friday, Oct 21st (5pm-9pm) & Saturday, Oct 22nd (9am-4pm)



Kelly holding "On Being Still—Great Blue Heron"

Come enjoy the beautiful artwork created by award-winning wildlife and botanical artist Kelly Leahy Radding and take a few home! All of the artwork for sale has been inspired by Kelly's monthly hikes in the Oswegatchie Hills. 15% of all sales of Kelly's items from October 21—Nov 5th will go to support STR-STH programs!

Friday Oct 21st 5-9pm

Opening Reception

All paintings, drawings & photographs available for viewing & purchase

Artist Talk at 6:30pm

Wine & Cheese

Drawing for a Framed, Signed
Poster of *Impressions of Oswegatchie Hills*

Saturday Oct 22nd

Kid's Corner (9am-Noon)

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
Bird of Prey Educational Program

Children's painting easels

Enviroscape demonstrations

Artist Demo (1pm)

Kelly will demo her painting & chat about her process

Kelly is a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists & a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, the New England Society of Botanical Artists and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden Florilegium Society. We are SO grateful she has chosen to help STR-STH!! Thanks also to **Denise Thompson**, owner of the Gallery, for creating and hosting this event!!



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Examples of Kelly's Work:



Save the Date: Winter Buffet & Holiday Cheer!

Friday December 9th, 6-10pm

Coming very soon! Check your mail for STR-STH Tickets and Flyer for our Holiday Fundraiser.

Exciting Surprise Live Auction Items

Delicious Flanders Fish New Menu Additions

New Ways to View Silent Auction Items

Our spirited, entertaining Auctioneers return and they may have a little help...

Remember the return ticket portion with your check is your reservation.

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

As the fall and winter approach, it's obvious that Save the River-Save the Hills is in need of a new crop of volunteers. The folks we have are doing great work but we need more of them! Our River Health and Safety project, the Water Quality Monitoring project and the Watershed Education project need an infusion of new blood (and guts) to thrive. Please join us!!

The Pfizer Foundation has an improved program designed to encourage its employees to participate in projects like ours. If you or people you know are Pfizer employees, please encourage them to contact us and the Pfizer Foundation to explore volunteer opportunities.

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

Kayak Regatta – 2016 – Our 13th!!

Rain didn't dampen the resolve, enthusiasm or turnout at our annual Kayak Regatta on Saturday, August 20. More than 50 non-motorized vessels (kayaks, canoes, paddle boards) headed up the Niantic River behind the Goshen Fire boat in the pouring rain to the live music by Denise and Tony Band! The parade ended at Point Comfort in front of the last mile of unprotected, undeveloped Oswegatchie Hills. More supporters joined on the shoreline at 47 Oswegatchie Road. Participants ducked under tents and umbrellas to enjoy the hot clam chowder and hot dogs donated by Flanders Fish and The Dock. More participants came at noon when the showers ended. It warmed Board Members hearts to see how many people came out to enjoy the river & support STR-STH despite the weather!!



Ed Jutila with
Eileen O'Pasek

The rain let up just in time for State Representative Ed Jutila to be recognized for his leadership and dedication in helping create the existing Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve and his resolve in protecting the remaining 236 acres still threatened by ill-conceived, high density development. Ed will be retiring after 11 years serving East Lyme and Salem.

Folk singer Geoff Kaufman gave a great pep talk reminding us of his connection with Pete Seeger and the Sloop Clearwater that is focused on cleaning up the Hudson River. Indeed, a small group of dedicated people can make a difference!! Geoff then serenaded the crowd on the beach and on the water with his wonderful Folk music.



Geoff Kaufman serenading the kayakers

Thank you ardent supporters, volunteers, members, friends and family for making this a most surprising and amazing Kayak Regatta!

Race Winners: 1) **Woman's Short Boat:** Rose LaFleur!! Stephanie Kenny (2nd), Billy Jo Williams (3rd); 2) **Men's Short Boat:** Brian Williams!! Rick Canovan (2nd); 3) **Kids Race:** Maddy Myers!! Kaylyn Wojcik (2nd); 4) **Men's Long Boat:** Jay Sullivan & Bob Weaber (TIE)!! Tom Cooper (3rd); 5) **Woman's Long Boat:** Deb Moshier-Dunn!!

Rose LaFleur (2nd), Billy Jo Williams (3rd)



Drawing Winners: SUP and Paddle (donated by Mike & Deb –Thanks!!) – Kathy McCarty; Life vest – Liz Caruso; STR-STH T-shirt—Joan Walworth; STR-STH T-shirt – Bob Walworth; STR-STH Beach Bag– Meri O'Pasek; STR-STH hat – Amanda McCarthy.



Volunteer David LaFleur handing out
hotdogs and warm Clam Chowder

Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition – Update

Our traveling display is on the move, building public awareness and support for our collective cause to get the remaining 236 acres of Oswegatchie Hills protected and in the adjoining Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve (OHNP.) Perhaps you saw fellow STR-STH and Friends of OHNP volunteers at these events around the region over the past few months:

- ☺ Waterford Public Library display of Wildlife and Water through September, thanks to Fred Grimsey for helping to set it up!
- ☺ Waterford Community Center, we filled the corridors with our maps and photos of the Niantic River watershed and illustrated how the ill-conceived proposed development on the northern one-third of the Oswegatchie Hills threatens the remaining coastal forest, including the last mile of undeveloped, unprotected coastal shoreline of the Niantic River, and the tidal estuary that flows directly into Long Island Sound. At the WCC opening reception on September 21, First Selectman Dan Steward welcomed guests to WCC and encouraged them to learn more about the significance of Niantic River and neighboring Oswegatchie Hills in East Lyme to Waterford community, residents and businesses.
- ☺ Our tents at Celebrate East Lyme Day and Old Lyme Midsummer Festival attracted lots of attention and questions from people, many who live in the Niantic River watershed, have hiked OHNP trails and/or get out on the water.

The Coalition also was featured in CFE's and Save the Sound's Summer 2016 newsletter, *SoundBites* and *GreenSheet*, with photos of Fred Grimsey and Mark Sperry with Rob Klee, Connecticut's Commissioner of Energy and Environment at the June unveiling at East Lyme Community Center.

Watch your mail for a printed copy, or see it online at

www.ctenvironment.org/newsletters

We continue to collaborate with Coalition partners on events and activities to increase public awareness and visibility. **October events include Head for the Hills, a fall open house and guided hikes at OHNP and information fair open to the public, on Saturday, Oct. 15 9am-Noon.** See more at www.oswhills.org.

See the Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition section of CFE's website for the current listing of organizations and businesses that have joined us at www.ctenvironment.org/oswegatchie.

Please contact Suzanne Thompson, Save Oswegatchie Hills Outreach Coordinator, for more information, including displays and fact sheets. Contact her at sthompson@ctenvironment.org, or at 860-434-5754.



1st Selectman Dan Steward speaking at WCC event



Greg Decker of FOHNP (left) and David Robinson of STR-STH (right) chat with a visitor to the Coalition Tent



STR-STH President Fred Grimsey points to the Niantic River in a display map in WCC. The large red outlined area is the portion of the Hills under threat of development.

Kayak regatta photos taken by Deborah Beckwith and David Robinson. Coalition update photos by Julie Clements-Reagan, FOHNP Board member, and Suzanne Thompson. Front photo of Kelly taken by Deb Moshier-Dunn.



Winter Buffet & Holiday Cheer! December 9th 6-10pm

Volunteer Opportunities:

Water Safety Study - "Block Captains" needed

Donate Live or Silent Auction Item

Sponsor an Auction Item.

Board Members - Secretary position is open

Like Fred said, "Please Join Us!"

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,

Please join us at our Gallery Opening! This is an event created by a member of STR-STH who called us and told us she and a friend wanted to do more than just come to the Holiday Fundraiser, as fun as that is. They wanted to create an event that would not only raise money, but awareness of the beauty that lives in the Oswegatchie Hills. What a great idea! And the Gallery Opening was born.

Your support is so very important to our 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 of our Holiday Fundraiser or a Donor to our Silent or Live Auction items**. Please feel free to contact me about any of the above or if you have new ideas for our events!

If you haven't renewed your membership and contributions **now is the time for your 2016 tax deductions!** 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:

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

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