



# 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)



## STR-STH Annual Fundraiser

with New  
**"Mingle and Jingle" Hors D'oeuvres Hour!!**

**Flanders Fish Market  
 and Restaurant**

22 Chesterfield Road,  
 East Lyme, CT 06357



**December 7th, 2019**

**Saturday!!!**

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

**Find your Tickets and more details on  
 the flyer enclosed.**

\$38.00 per person if you send in your pay-  
 ment and tickets (\$40 at door) Kids \$18.00

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

**Plus Silent Auction & Door Prizes!**

*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!!**

**Delicious Flanders Fish Buffet Menu!!**

***Remember, sending the return ticket portion with your check  
 is your reservation.***

## #SmartSolar Initiative Update

The #SmartSolar Team has been very busy trying to get word out about the adverse effects of ground mounted solar installations that are being quickly installed in environmentally sensitive areas throughout the state. The subtitle of one of our articles tells the story: "Turning Trout Streams into Drainage Ditches". These ill-conceived, quickly installed solar arrays are damaging our landscape. The Waterford proposal is on 90 acres of forest.

The common issues with these installations are 1) they are installed or proposed to be installed in forests or farmland, and 2) the engineering does not properly deal with the immense amount of runoff caused by the panels. **LET THE TOWN OF WATERFORD KNOW YOU ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED SOLAR INSTALLATION.** As proposed it will kill Oil Mill & Stony Brooks. (See page 3 for more info and links to presentations.)

We have also been alerted to a new proposal in Old Lyme that is also within a core forest next to a vernal pool. We are scrambling to meet deadlines to help OL people understand the issues and the CT Siting Council process.



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President Fred Grimsey, Eagle Scout Candidate Jonathan Glander & Deb Moshier-Dunn at Grimsey Beach planning kiosk location



**Our beautiful Pumpout Boat  
 getting winterized after  
 another successful season**

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

Sunday October 27th was the last day of this year's Pumpout Program. We have kept more than 4000 gallons of highly concentrated sewage out of the Niantic River and Long Island Sound. FYI—The Dockominium pumpout will run until November 15, 2019. Our Pumpout Boat will resume operations Memorial Weekend 2020. Many thanks to the captain and crew of the Pumpout Boat who work tirelessly to keep our river clean!

Also, kudos to the team working on the #SmartSolar project to save the water quality of Oil Mill Brook, Stony Brook and the Niantic River Estuary. See pages 1 & 3 for updates.

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

## Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta – 2019 – Our 16th!!



*The always popular Goshen Fire Boat showing full plume in front of the Oswegatchie Hills as SUP and kayaks paddle through the arc of the spray.*

The Save the River-Save the Hills 16th Annual Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta on August 17th was a crazy weather day that still had 70+ people showing up in the pouring rain to support saving the Niantic River and the surrounding hills. Kayakers followed the Goshen Fire Boat as it led the parade up the river in a steady downpour from Sandy Point to Grimsey Beach. There participants were warmly greeted and treated to **music and sing along by Jessica Mancuso**, hot dogs donated by **The Dock** and always fabulous clam chowder from **Flanders Fish**. Many thanks to all the volunteers who cooked and handed out the much appreciated food!

We had a break from the rain long enough for our great new addition to our day: **Barbara Daversa (E-RYT 200) led a class in SUP Yoga!!!** Participants learned how to balance to do Yoga on their SUPs and even how to do Yoga while sitting in their kayaks. Many thanks to **Three Belles Marina** who brought 10 SUP boards upriver and anchored them in the cove by Grimsey Beach for participants to use. We look forward to a sunny day next year for SUP/Kayak Yoga!!



*Barbara Daversa leading her Yoga class for participants in kayaks and on SUPs.*

**Kayak Race Winners: Men and Women Kayak**—1) Rose LaFleur 2) Jay Sullivan 3) Deb Moshier-Dunn & Natalie;  
**SUP race**—1) Lee Deer (we owe you a t-shirt!) 2) Barbara Daversa

**Drawing Winners: Kayak and Paddle** (donated by Mike & Deb –Thanks!!) – Ken Kleszczewski; **Life vest** – Nancy Way (please contact Deb at 860-444-9247, I still have your vest!!)

**Thank you all for braving the weather & coming out to support STR-STH!**

## ~~ Eagle Scout Project Update ~~

We are very excited about the project that Boy Scout Jonathan Glander has chosen to do for STR-STH as his capstone Eagle Scout project. He will be building and erecting a kiosk at Grimsey Beach which will house important information and educational papers for visitors to the town beach to see. The six foot tall kiosk will be set back from the beach and visible from the road. Jonathan had to learn how to work within the town's guidelines and lead others in the task to create his project. If you are interested in watching the kiosk being installed, join us at Grimsey Beach on Saturday, November 9 (9am—placing footings) and/or Sunday, November 10 (Noon—setting it up) and cheer Jonathan on!

## Thank You Three Belles Outfitters & Marina!!

This year's Three Belles Outfitters' 4th Annual Trifecta Challenge took place on the weekend of July 12-14, 2019. The contest is billed as Connecticut's premier saltwater kayak fishing tournament with prizes for the largest combined-length Striped Bass, Bluefish, and Fluke and it draws people from all over the state. Each year Three Belles Outfitters raise money for local charities through the tournament. This year they are donating \$5,466 to Save the River-Save the Hills!

**Many thanks to Three Belles for choosing to support our efforts to keep the Niantic River Estuary clean. Be sure to thank them the next time you visit or see a staff member in town!**



*STR-STH VP Deb Moshier-Dunn, Three Belles Outfitters' Manager Mario Richards and STR-STH Fundraising & Membership Chair Eileen O'Pasek*

## #SmartSolar Initiative Update (con't. from page 1)

The #SmartSolar team is working expanding and working with Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition members in defending their lands from being damaged by ground mounted solar. As we write this, the proposal in Old Lyme is close to the end of the Public Comments period. These proposals are fast-tracked by the CT Siting Council because of the Governor's goal of CT being powered totally by renewables by 2040. A lofty, positive goal that is having a devastating impact on our wetlands, streams and forests. We at STR-STH feel we should not have to trade-off water quality for solar power.

Perhaps you have seen the OpEd in The Day titled "Revival of Waterford Solar Plan Reason for Concern" (<https://www.theday.com/article/20190922/OP03/190929939>) or the article written by Lee Howard of The Day "Downhill from solar project, Concerns Mount" (<https://www.theday.com/local-news/20191018/downhill-from-solar-project-concerns-mount>). We have also spoken at Trout Unlimited meetings & a Rivers Alliance of CT conference. You can see the slides of our presentation including many pictures of the destruction at the East Lyme site: <http://www.riversalliance.org/CWCN/cwnmain.php>.

Also, STR-STH has a new page on our website for #SmartSolar: [www.savetheriversavethehills.org/smartsolar.html](http://www.savetheriversavethehills.org/smartsolar.html). Check it periodically for updates or follow us on our Facebook Page for the latest.

## Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition Update

Our coalition-building efforts to raise public awareness and support for protecting the remaining undeveloped Oswegatchie Hills continues to add followers, both locally and across the region.

Potapaug Audubon Society and Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center have joined the over 25 organizations that have signed on to our cause since we launched the Coalition in early 2015. Local businesses and associations continue to help us, too. Please stop by Café Sol to thank co-owners Tabitha and Brian and the friendly staff for signing up over 60 supporters in September and October. Look for our fact sheets, sign-up clipboard and STR-STH newsletters on the front counter!

We also have great support from key state-wide conservation organizations. Save Oswegatchie Hills Outreach Coordinator Suzanne Thompson was a panelist at CT Trails Symposium 2019, sponsored by CT DEEP, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, UConn and CT Greenways, at Goodwin College in October. Please let Suzanne know of potential speaking opportunities or places where our information can be displayed. Suzanne's email is [Sthompson@ctenvironment.org](mailto:Sthompson@ctenvironment.org), 860-662-1531.

*Kayak regatta photos taken by Deb Moshier-Dunn.*





## Join us at our Annual Fundraiser! December 7th 6-10pm

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☺ Donate Auction Item(s)
- ☺ Sponsor an Auction Item(s)
- ☺ Become a Committee Member
- ☺ Admin - help with mailings

Like Fred says, "Please Join Us!"

[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,

I want to give a special thank you to our members who joined the Charter Oak Matching Program. These Matching programs are so important for Save the River-Save the Hills, helping us maintain many of our programs and our mission. If your Credit Union or Workplace is involved in a matching program we would so appreciate having you enroll Save the River-Save the Hills.

It is the end of the year (unbelievable) and you may want to get your membership donations in before the New Year for tax purposes.

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> is our Holiday Fundraiser at Flanders. We will have a special "Mingle and Jingle" Hors d'oeuvre hour, many door prizes and Auction items. This is our 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday night Fundraiser --- so please send your check and ticket in early!!!

Sincerely, *Eileen O'Pasek*, Membership Chair

#### Membership & Other Contributions:

\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Basic Family \$25

\_\_\_ River Keeper \$50

\_\_\_ River Saver \$100

\_\_\_ River Protector \$250

\_\_\_ River Neptune \$500

\_\_\_ River Champion \$1000

All members receive our quarterly newsletters. Note: first \$25.00 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)

Referred by: