

SAVE THE RIVER-SAVE THE HILLS

# *Fundraiser*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023

6 to 9pm

Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant

Cocktail Hour  
& Dinner

## *Choice of Entrees*

Scallop & Shrimp Pasta

Roast Chicken & Mashed Potato

Maple Mustard Rosemary Salmon & Rice

*Complimentary Glass of Wine*

\*\*\*Please Kindly Respond  
by November 1st to order  
your choice of entree  
when you mail in  
payment

Silent Auction &  
Raffle Prizes

Mail your **choice of entree, tickets & check**  
**payable to:**

STR-STH by **November 1st**

**\$50 Dinner, \$25 Children Under 12**

Any Questions, call 860-439-1687



## Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta – 2023 – Our 19th!!

Our 19th Annual Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta on August 12th gave us a chance to honor our Founder Fred Grimsey for all he did for our local community. We unveiled the plaque for Fred that will be placed on Grimsey Beach below the Kiosk. **Geoff Kaufman** beautifully sang meaningful songs that we know Fred was listening to and enjoying. **Senator Richard Blumenthal** spoke words of gratitude for all that Fred did, **Senator Chris Murphy** sent a letter recognizing Fred's work, **Roger Reynolds** of Save the Sound spoke from the heart about how Fred inspired him and I read my reflection on the impact that Fred has had on my life. It was a wonderful day with friends and family. For 19 years we've been re-creating Fred's Dream of getting as many people as possible to kayak on the Niantic River to feel it and appreciate it—so they will take care of it. Kayakers followed the Goshen Fire Boat as it led the parade up the river from Sandy Point to Grimsey Beach. There participants were welcomed to music by **The Lowtiders**, hot dogs donated by **Three Belles Outfitters** and the always fabulous clam chowder from **Flanders Fish**, dished out by **Paul Formica**. Many thanks to all the volunteers and everyone who participated! And a special thank you to **Anne Ogden** who donated her time **and** her pictures below! I am always blown away by our members' generosity.

Thank you all for supporting STR-STH! *Deb Mashier-Dunn, Acting President*







## “Save the River” - Pumpout Program Update by Jim Paganetti, STR-STH Pumpout Administrator

The Pumpout program is expected to exceed the removal of over 15,000 Gallons of waste from boats this year! Despite the multiple rainy weekends, we are pumping out more waste than any of the past years that the Pumpout program has been in operation. Our new boat has exceeded expectations for waste removal, operations, and navigation. We also have a terrific crew operating the boat this year (Aiden Grimsey and John Deer). And 2024 looks to be another successful year!

Save the River-Save the Hills annually writes a grant application to CT DEEP to help fund the Operations and Maintenance for our boat. The grant is funded through the federal Clean Vessel Act and distributed via DEEP. The grant provides 75% of our costs, the remainder is provided by our dedicated membership, donors, Towns of East Lyme and Waterford, and Waterford East Lyme Shellfish Commission.

Thanks to all the environmentally sustainably-minded folks who participate in this program. The season will continue operating Friday through Mondays until the end of October. We will start up again mid-May, 2024.

## “Save the Hills” Update by Suzanne Thompson & Deb Moshier-Dunn

STR-STH is very happy that the town of East Lyme residents voted overwhelmingly on October 17 to buy the center of the current Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve in order to protect it in perpetuity. Save Oswegatchie Hills Coalition, formed in late 2015 by STR-STH and Friends of OHNP with Save the Sound (STS), continues to build awareness and importance of the Oswegatchie Hills as a fragile coastal forest worth protecting and preserving for current and future generations—focusing on the remaining acres of waterfront.

Our coalition exists to save the remaining Oswegatchie Hills owned by Landmark Development. While legal activity directly involving the 236 acres appears to be quiet, we await the result of another lawsuit Landmark has started vs the town of EL—this time about town regulations. We continue to build the regional recognition and understanding of why it is important to protect the last mile of coastal forest shoreline that is the Oswegatchie Hills.

We continue to engage key partners in the coalition, from local groups to powerful state-wide organizations like CT Land Conservation Council and Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Save the Sound’s legal expertise and access to state officials and offices has been invaluable, too. These long-term relationships, maintained through times when other pressing CT conservation matters take center stage, are in place so we can chart the next chapters in saving the river by saving the Oswegatchie Hills.

*Contact Suzanne Thompson, Save Oswegatchie Hills Outreach Coordinator at 860-662-1531.*

# Join us at our Annual Fundraiser! November 17th 6-9pm

## Volunteer Opportunities:

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

*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,

Save the River-Save the Hills is thrilled to announce our Harvest Fundraiser on November 17 from 6-9pm! We are hoping you will join us and support this wonderful event. It has been a very difficult time for getting together and fundraising. We would be so happy to see your smiling faces! Just being together to celebrate will be amazing as we haven't had our event since 2019. The event will have reminders and examples of what STR-STH is achieving with your generous donations and encouragement.

**There will be no tickets sold at the door** and for the first time we will have a plated dinner (like a wedding), so **please send your tickets with your choice of meal with your check in early** so we can get a count to Flanders Fish a couple weeks before the event.

Also, please consider being a Sponsor—or asking a business you frequent to be one. The Sponsorship Form is enclosed.

It is almost the end of the year (unbelievably) and you may want to get your membership donations in before the New Year for tax purposes. Thank you to all who use their employer or credit union matches—It really helps!

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:

☐ Pumpout Boat and Program

☐ Water Quality, Watershed Education, Legal Defense

Please make checks payable to:

STR-STH, Inc.

and mail to

Save the River-Save the Hills

P.O. Box 505



Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

(email will be used for Action Alerts for STR-STH issues)

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

*This Newsletter is printed on Recycled Paper*