



# Spring & Summer 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)

## It's Kayak Regatta Time!!!

Please join us for the 11th Annual Niantic River Appreciation Day Kayak Regatta on **Saturday, August 16th, 10:00am—2:00pm** on the headwaters of the Niantic River (towards Rt 1). This year:

- ☺ 9:30am or earlier—launch at Three Belles Marina or call Deb 444-9247 for a closer to event launch site. (Rent kayaks from Three Belles or EMS)
- ☺ 10:00am meet **The Goshen Fire Boat** just past Sandy Point to start our north bound **Kayak Parade of Solidarity up to the Oswegatchie Hills!!! All participants of the day will receive free gift...**
- ☺ 10:30—**Denise and Tony Band are back!!** They will kick-off our 11th year for us from Point Comfort, as you buy T-shirts and STR-STH beach bags, STR-STH hats, kayak trail maps, etc. Pack some cash!! Pick up you **FREE DRAWING TICKET FOR THE KAYAK** at our membership table.
- ☺ 11:00 - **Our local politicians speak in favor of Saving the Hills!** Hear the latest on our efforts to keep the Oswegatchie Hills wild.
- ☺ Noon -1:30pm **FREE CLAM CHOWDER** donated by Flanders Fish and **FREE HOT DOGS** donated by **The Dock Restaurant!!**
- ☺ 1:00pm—**Short, fun kayak races** for different classes of kayaks and kayakers for t-shirts and braggin' rights.
- ☺ 1:45pm—**FREE DRAWING** for donated items (kayak and paddle—for members & volunteers only, other items for all participants). Go on land by the food & Porta-Pottie to find the membership table for tickets.
- ☺ Ongoing safety checks from the **Coast Guard Auxiliary, kayak & SUP demos by Three Belles and EMS** and a **STR-STH information booth** at 47 Oswegatchie Road.

**COME ENJOY A DAY ON THE RIVER WITH US!!**

**“In the end our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy” - John C. Sawhill**

**“Let's Save the Last Mile” - STR-STH**

**We believe that the Oswegatchie Hills frontage on the Niantic River is the last continuous mile of salt water frontage in the whole State of Connecticut that has not been either already developed or protected.**

### Upcoming Events!

“LIKE” our Facebook page to stay “between Newsletters” up-to-date on our events...

- ☺ East Lyme Day!! July 19th... come see us at our Booth!!
- ☺ Clean-up of Latimer Brook—National Estuary Week, Sept. 20-27th
- ☺ Wine, Cheese and Song this coming Fall—Date TBD (early Dec)



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Enjoying the Niantic River in front of the Oswegatchie Hills!



Fred on our Water Quality skiff—testing the waters for your safety!

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

As part of our continuous advocacy for a pristine Oswegatchie Hills we are doing the following:

- 1) Making common cause with The Trust for Public Land and Save the Sound for the purchase of The Preserve in Old Saybrook. STR-STH has made a small contribution to this effort to show support for its acquisition. This program is similar to our efforts for the Oswegatchie Hills and our hope is that once completed, The Trust for Public Land and Save the Sound can direct more of their efforts to our cause.
- 2) The Pumpout Program started on Memorial Day weekend and has had a slow start due to wet weather but is picking up to normal now.
- 3) The Water Quality Monitoring Project will be started after July 4th this year. We need volunteers to:
  - ☺ run the skiff— need a current boaters license
  - ☺ take the samples— we will provide training, it's easy and fun!
  - ☺ to drive the samples to Ledge Light in New London and/or the Public Health Lab in Rocky Hill. We can reimburse for mileage.

Please contact me, Fred Grimsey, at 860-442-8349 if you have a few hours to help! You don't have to do all of the testing or driving. Just volunteering for what you can do will help a lot!!

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

*All of us at STR-STH would like to send our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Bea Frish. Bea was a loyal member and supporter of STR-STH and she will be dearly missed...*

### **Thank You to our Donors who gave in Honor of Joan Gibson's Bday!**

A special thank you to the list of contributors who donated to STR-STH in honor of their friend Joan's birthday. Joan you are well loved!!

Carolyn and David Aubin  
Jack Bounce  
Sandra and Robert Chalifoux  
Jennifer and Steven Crowley  
Carolyn and Donald Dehart  
Suzanne Harriman  
Virginia and Robert Hellstrom  
Kathryn and David King  
Carole and George Lapis  
Charlotte Sandler  
Laura MacDonald  
Lindley and Olive Shaw

We so appreciate these special donations in honor of members, families and friends! Each donor becomes a one year honorary member receiving newsletters and important informational flyers. If you have any questions about this type of donation, please contact Eileen O'Pasek at 860-439-1687. Keep in mind that all donations are tax deductible.

# STR-STH Program Updates...

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

Landmark's appeal of the Town of EL's Water-Sewer Commission's decision to not give 118,000 gallons/day of sewer capacity is still awaiting the Judge's decision. Judge Cohn remanded the decision back to the Water-Sewer Commission asking them to state how much capacity could be allocated. The Town decided to allow 13,000 gal/day which is enough for roughly 90 units (vs. the 840 that Landmark proposed). Our attorney Jason Wescott represented us well at the hearing regarding this action. We as interveners can only focus on Environmental issues in regard to this appeal. Attny Wescott pointed out other CT court cases where the town was allowed broad discretion when allocating their own resources and the Judge in those cases sided with the towns. His arguments were key in our Legal Defense of the Hills! We are now awaiting the decision of the Judge in regard to the 13,000 gal/day allotment. We are hopeful that the Judge will side with the Town... Stay Tuned to our Facebook Page for more!!

## Water Quality Testing Program

Thanks to Fred who works tirelessly on the boats to get them ready, and our summer Pumpout workers this year (Thank you!), we have the Water Quality Testing boat out on the water. In previous years, **we have found very high bacterial counts in the water after a substantial (1-2 inch) rainfall. We do not recommend water contact sports (swimming, tubing & skiing where you head can go under water or water sprays on your face) on the Niantic River for a few days after a 1-2 inch rainfall** to allow the tidal flows to clear the River out. We are working with the Towns of Waterford and EL on coming up with a notification system for when the bacterial counts in the River are high enough that they would shut down a public lake or beach.

## Watershed Education Program

The Enviroscape was borrowed by the Town of East Lyme for their annual 3rd Grade outdoor classroom in May. They thought it is a wonderful tool for teaching children about what a Watershed is and how what we do everyday affects the quality of the water in our Coastal Watershed. It even got a front page picture in the Regional Section of The Day !! If you would like to be involved in an education project or have an idea of a **Boy or Girl Scout Troop, school or summer camp** that might want to use it, please call Deb at 860-444-9247. The curriculum comes with it and it is so easy, even young children can play with it and get an understanding of how all water on land eventually gets to a River and Ocean.



## Pumpout Boat Program

We started our 12th season of the Pumpout Program Memorial Day Weekend! Remember—the Niantic River and the entire Long Island Sound is a No-Discharge Zone by order of the Federal EPA. Our Pumpout Boat can be contacted by calling the numbers for the boat: **287-2774 (phone) and VHF Channel 68**. Spread the word & Tell your boater friends!!!

## Three Belles Marina Note:

*If you would like to rent a Kayak or SUP for the Kayak Regatta—call Three Belles Marina (860-739-6264) as soon as you can! They have a number of different (peddle, paddle, etc.) kayaks to rent, but they “rent out” very quickly. Call (or go on their website) to reserve yours or for visiting family/friends for August 16th today!!*

# 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

## Volunteer Opportunities:

- ☉ **Join Our Board**—we are looking for **Secretary** and **Treasurer** at this time. Please help!
- ☉ Help with our 11th Kayak Regatta
- ☉ Help with the Education Program — call Deb 444-9247 to borrow the Enviroscape
- ☉ Administration - helping with mailings, etc.

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

## Membership News

Thank you to all our members who have sent in their 2014 membership dues! If you are not current, please renew today. We appreciate your generosity and support of our programs. Always remember, **Membership is the Voice and Backbone of our Organization!**

We will keep you up-to-date on Facebook about the Water-Sewer Appeal and anything else we learn about what is going on with the Oswegatchie Hills. Our website is not currently up and running, but we have 232 Facebook followers to-date! Find us and “Like” us to stay connected and support us in Saving the River and Hills!

Sincerely, *Eileen O’Pasek*, Membership and Fundraising 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 and one STR-STH membership sticker.

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:**