



# 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)

## President's Message:

The May 21st Public Hearing saw a large surge of public support for the saving of Oswegatchie Hills. In the interest of time, the large crowd was asked to omit applause for presentations against the application. I understand that the first night of this very important Public Hearing was hard to sit through as technical letters were read into the record. But the content of those letters was crucial to our cause.

The CT Fund for the Environment's letter and Roger Reynold's presentation asked the Town to have the Application go through the Town's Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA) before the Zoning Commission, as required by State Statutes. An attachment to the CFE letter was the letter that the internationally known Civil Engineer whom STR-STH and The Friends hired to review the application—Steve Trinkaus— wrote. The letter from the DEEP was full of numerous references of environmental harm and pointed out that the Application was not only flawed, but incomplete. All the other letters, like the ones from the EL Planning Director, the EL Planning Commission, EL Engineer, and the Town's Traffic Expert, all supported our arguments that this development is totally inappropriate for such an environmentally sensitive area above an estuary that drains directly into the LI Sound. It was a great night for Saving the Oswegatchie Hills!

The hearing is continued to **June 4th and June 18th at 7:30** at Nett Hall, Camp Niantic. June 4th is when Landmark will present their Application and our Engineer will show how it will negatively impact the Hills and the River. ***We still need the public to come out and show their commitment to stop this onslaught. Please continue to come to the Hearings as we are in the final weeks of this important battle!!*** The "Save It All" effort of STR-STH and The Friends is alive and well! Please continue to show up and show the Town that you care. See you at the hearings!


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

**"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 it All" - STR-STH and The Friends of the Oswegatchie Nature Preserve**

## Kayak Regatta 2015—Save the Date!!

**Saturday, August 22nd 10-2pm**

"LIKE" our Facebook page or just go out to our website at [SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org](http://SavetheRiverSavetheHills.org) and click the  to stay "between Newsletters" up-to-date on what's going on...

 Find us on Facebook



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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!



12th Annual

# Kayak Regatta!



Kayak Parade!!

Races!! Prizes!!

Clam Chowder!!

Hot Dogs!!

Music!!

Fun in the Sun!!

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, August 22nd From 10am-2pm**



**Kayak Parade: At 10 AM meet the Goshen Fireboat by Sandy Point and follow it up the Niantic River in your Kayaks, Canoes, and SUP Boards to the festivities.**

**For more info call Deb Moshier- Dunn 860-444-9247**



**RAIN DATE: Sunday, August 23, 2015**

# STR-STH Program Updates...

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

**Water-Sewer Focus:** Landmark's appeal of the Town of EL's Water-Sewer Commission's decision to deny 118,000 gallons/day of sewer capacity is still awaiting the Judge's final decision. The Town decided to allow 14,000 gal/day which is enough for roughly 104 units (vs. the 840 that Landmark proposed). Our attorney Jason Wescott went to the multiple hearings to represent us in supporting the Town's decision on Environmental grounds. We are hopeful that the Judge will side with the Town. That will prevent the developer from inflating the price with an unreasonable amount of units and keep the cost of buying/swapping the parcel to a fair market value. Please give generously to the Legal Defense fund to help us continue this part of the legal battle!

**Application Focus:** As Fred mentioned in his note on the front page, we have hired a well respected, world class Civil Engineer to look closely at the current Application for 840 units. Please come to the Public Hearing to hear what he has to say!! And again, **engineers and lawyers aren't inexpensive... Please give generously to our Legal Defense fund to help pay for Saving the Hills!!**

## Water Quality Testing Program

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH GETTING THE BOATS IN THE WATER THIS YEAR, PLEASE CALL FRED AT 860-442-8349!! We really need your help this year... 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.** This will allow the tidal flows to clear the River out. We are still working with the Towns of Waterford and East Lyme 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

Our Enviroscape was borrowed again by the Town of East Lyme for their annual 3rd Grade outdoor classroom in May. They think 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. 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



## Pumpout Boat Program

We start our 13th season of the Pumpout Program Memorial Day Weekend—IF WE CAN GET THE BOAT IN THE WATER!! Please call Fred to help. Remember—the Niantic River and the entire Long Island Sound is a No-Discharge Zone by order of the U.S. EPA. Our Pumpout Boat can be contacted by calling the number for the boat: **287-2774 (phone) and VHF Channel 68.** Spread the word!

## Three Belles Marina Note:

*If you would like to rent a Kayak or SUP for the Kayak Regatta—call our supporter 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. They also have small, fun sailboats to rent. Call (or go on their website) to reserve yours or for visiting family/friends for August 22nd 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 12th 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

A special thank you to all our members who joined us at the May 21, 2015 Public Hearing. We stood together to show our strong conviction to protect the Niantic River and preserve the Oswegatchie Hills. We **need you again at the Thursday June 4th** continuation of this important hearing. **You are the face and voice of Save the River-Save the Hills.** You will want to hear the developers plan and our expert witnesses. The public may have a chance to speak as well. Our Local, State and Federal representatives and their Aides have also been invited—some are trying hard to attend!

Also, **I would like to send email blasts for important events such as Public Hearings.** If you want to be on that list please write your email *clearly* in the membership box below. Please submit your annual dues as our many programs depend on your contributions. Please support our Legal Defense Fund!

Thank you for all your help. See you Thursday June 4th, 7:30 at Nett Hall, Camp Niantic, 38 Smith Street Niantic CT.

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:**